Monday, June 13, 2011 ★★ 17 sections / Vol. 26 / No. 185 P18 | www.inquirer.net | Mobile Alert: Text REG DILG to 2366

Noy vows graft-free PH

Says dignity, honor come with 'true freedom'

By TJ Burgonio and DJ Yap

KAWIT, Cavite—Hoisting the national flag in the same town where revolutionaries proclaimed Philippine independence 113 years ago, President Aquino promised Filipinos a country free from corruption and a nation no longer like "a paper boat drowning in a sea of lies and anomalies."

"The time to be ashamed is [when] opinion is behind us," Mr. Aquino said in an Independence Day speech from the balcony of Emilio Aguinaldo's mansion here.

Near a shrine, it was where the young Aguinaldo in the country's first President unfurled the Philippine flag in 1898 and proclaimed "Filipinas is for Filipinos," signaling the nation's separation from Spain.

Mr. Aquino led the flag ceremony, grasping the rope tethered to the flag and vigorously pulling until the red-blue and yellow banner

MANY DEVOTEES, A10

Aguinaldos keep fighting for their original flag | A10

FREEDOM DAY RITES President Aquino leads the flag-raising ceremony in commemoration of the 113th anniversary of Philippine independence held at the Aguinaldo Shrine in Kawit, Cavite. He is joined by Cesar Aguinaldo Virata and the Armed Forces of the Philippines chief of staff, Gen. Eduardo Oban Jr. The event celebrates the Declaration of Independence on June 12, 1898, by Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo and the Filipino revolutionary forces from the Spanish colonizers.

Palace says US will side with PH in China conflict

AFMIB rising tensions between Manila and Beijing over the Spratlys, President Aquino welcomes China's Ambassador Liu Jianchao in Malacañang for the Independence Day rite of flag-raising.

By TJ Burgonio and Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

MALACAÑANG yesterday expressed confidence the United States would side with the Philippines in its conflict with China over the disputed Spratly Islands—an assessment that Sen. Jokes Ermita described as "wishful thinking."

Presidential Secretary Paquito Ochoa Jr. dismissed in his press report quoting US Embassy spokesperson Rebecca Thompson that Washington does not take sides in regional disputes.

(See story on this page.)

"Let me put it this way: We have a standing Mutual Defense Treaty with the United States. So the main relevant portion of that treaty is that the United States would side with the Philippines if it is attacked by another country," Ochoa said.

The senator described as "baseless" the 1951 treaty between Manila and Washington, often invoked by Malacañang as a defense mechanism against invasion.

He pointed out that the defense treaty did not provide for an automatic retaliation by the United States, unlike Manila-Washington's commitment with Nato.

This point, Arroyo said, had been "exposed by the great minds" in the past, like Claro M. Recto, Jose P. Laurel, Lorenzo Tañada Sr., Jose W. Diokno and

PALACE, A11

Albay gov calls for boycott of China-made goods | A21

Spratlys row a test of P-Noy mettle

By Amando Doronila

ANALYSIS

THE CELEBRATION yesterday of the 113th anniversary of Philippine independence was crossed with the theme of national sovereignty, but it was drowned out by messages concerning the territorial disputes over disputed islands in the South China Sea, including those claimed by the Philippines.

The messages also raised the issue of foreign policy challenge in the north of the Aquino administration to defend Philippine territorial claims in the Spratly Islands.

The first message emanates from the warning by China that the United States should not get involved in the disputes over the Spratly Islands since it is "not a party to the dispute."

The warning came as the Philippines and the United States prepare to hold joint naval exercises starting on June 20 at an undisclosed site where the Philippines' Naval Forces West (Nawcwest) operates. The site is believed to be in the

WWW.PN.MIL.PH

Embassy official clarifies statement

By Jerry E. Esplanada

US EMBASSY spokesperson Rebecca Thompson yesterday took exception to an Inquirer headline, "US not coming to PH aid versus China."

In a text message, Thompson clarified: "When I said, "The US does not take sides in regional territorial disputes," I was talking about the current disputes over boundaries—an issue separate from what the US would do in the hypothetical event of conflict."

"As we've said repeatedly, these issues need to be resolved peacefully within the framework of international law," she said.

Thompson said in an e-mailed statement that Washington was "troubled by incidents in the South China

EMBASSY, A12

Sexting solon takes leave for treatment

WASHINGTON—A married New York congressman who sent sexually explicit photographs of himself to women he met through social networks said he was entering professional treatment and requested a leave of absence from Congress.

Rep. Anthony Weiner made the disclosure in a statement on Saturday shortly after several Democratic party leaders demanded he resign for exchanging messages and photos ranging from sexually suggestive to explicit with several women online.

"This useful affair has become an unacceptable distraction for Representative Weiner, his family, his constituents and the House," Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz, chair of the Democratic National Committee, said in a written statement calling for the 46-year-old man

SEXTING, A12

JUMBO Balancing holds on to cola bottles during a photo shoot.

World's shortest man is Filipino

By Jeffrey M. Tupas
Inquirer Mindanao

THE WORLD didn't know of Junrie Balsamo before the blacksmith's son celebrated his 18th birthday yesterday.

Born to a poor family belonging

WORLD'S, A11

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Jose Rizal really loved to read / H1

LIFESTYLE
The truth about Rizal's 'poor' grades at UST / G2

Second FRONTPAGE

WEATHER FORECAST

More raps filed vs alleged coral smuggler

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Government prosecutors have filed more charges against Joe Peling and seven others reportedly involved in the smuggling of endangered marine species.

Regional State Prosecutor Rizalde Cabanos said Peling and Victoria Pino Jr. were charged on Thursday with violating the fisheries code, citing raids on their establishments in 2007 and 2007.

It was the second case for Peling, who was charged last week with trading in illegal marine products after tons of endangered sea corals were seized from his Una Una Trading warehouse here.

Peling, husband of trader Olivia Li of Li and Lim Trading, is also known as Joe Peling, Li Yi Hling, Lee Ngayan Ming and Lee Nan Hling.

Prosecutors said banned marine species were recovered from Yee's warehouses in Sta. Catalina village in 2006 and Anna Peling's warehouse on Magay Street in 2007.

The prosecutors, however, were mum on why the charges for the alleged crimes committed more than four years ago were filed only now. The National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) had reportedly submitted the complaints in 2006.

Prosecutors Gladdy Remolte and Alfredo Antonio Jr. said they would make the explanations when the formals, which is investigating the massive smuggling of endangered marine species from this city, asks them to testify.

Cabanos said there was no other explanation besides the fact that their hands were full with other cases and that the regional prosecutor's office was understaffed.

He said there were only seven prosecutors working on big cases, which he did not specify.

"Maybe we erred in our priorities but we were also handling other big cases and we lacked the necessary manpower," Cabanos said.

Meanwhile, Peling and Li appeared to have left the city.

Since Thursday, the Senate's sergeant at arms has been trying to locate the couple to no avail.

Senate Supt. Edwin De Ocampo, acting city police chief, said "it appears they have already left the city."

De Ocampo along with De Ocampo's sergeant at arms went to Una Una trader—including Rizalyn Tenorio—where the couple was staying, but they were nowhere to be found. Aelle Alipala, Inquirer Mindanao

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CA denies Banco Filipino plea

THE COURT of Appeals has denied the plea of Banco Filipino to lift the writ of preliminary injunction that stopped the Makati Regional Trial Court from ordering the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas to release up to P25 billion in financial assistance and other regulatory relief to the beleaguered bank.

The CA's Special 20th Division—composed of Hakim Abdulwahid, Noel Tijam and Ricardo Rosario—unanimously ruled that there was no basis for Banco Filipino's assertion that the BSP and its policy-making body, the Monetary Board, would not suffer grave irreparable injury if a writ of preliminary injunction were issued.

"To apply preferential cost by petitioners (the BSP and Monetary Board), allowing the case to proceed will prevent the former from, or hamper their functions in, exercising regulatory functions over private respondent...," the CA said in the resolution penned by Abdulwahid.

Jovenir Aning

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More rains seen this week

EXPECT another wet week.

A string of low pressure areas is expected to bring rain showers across the country, a weather official said.

Graciano Yumul, supervising science meteorologist for the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa), said areas of Mindanao and the western seaboard of Luzon and the Visayas would likely feel the effects of the weather system this week.

"There will be a series of low pressure embedded within the intertropical convergence zone (ITCZ), with Mindanao mostly in the receiving end," Yumul said yesterday.

Pagasa said an active low pressure area was estimated to be 90 kilometers away from Dipolog City moving northwest out of the Philippine area of responsibility.

The cool-haves monsoon is also expected to bring rains over parts of Luzon, including Metro Manila, and the Visayas, mostly in the afternoon.

"If there will be no change, Wednesday to Friday will be wet in Palawan, Mindoro, Marinduque, Romblon, the Bicol peninsula and Bicol," Yumul said. — Sheila Crisostomo

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Comelec: Non-Muslim can head ARMM as OIC

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ROBUSTA FRESH

By Jeconia Aning

PRESIDENT Aquino may appoint a non-Muslim as officer in charge of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM), according to Commission on Elections Chair Sixto Brillantes Jr.

"There's no obligation requirement for being appointed ARMM governor. The ARMM Organic Act does not require that the one who appointed should be a Muslim, even though it's supposed to be an autonomous region for Muslim Mindanao," Brillantes told reporters.

Congress recently approved the postponement of the ARMM election scheduled on Aug. 8 and its synchronization with the May 2013 midterm poll. The bill, which the President has yet to sign, calls for the appointment of regional officers in charge subject to the qualifications laid down in Republic Act No. 6734 or the ARMM Organic Act.

Section 3, Article VIII of the act states: "No person may be elected governor of the Autonomous Region unless he is a natural-born citizen of the Philippines, a registered voter of the autonomous region, able to read and write, at least 35 years of age on the day of the election, and a resident of the autonomous region for at least five years immediately preceding the election."

Aside from the governor, Mr. Aquino will also appoint a temporary vice governor and members of the Regional Legislative Assembly. The OICs, under the postponement law, will not be allowed to run in the 2013 ARMM elections.

The terms of the incumbent elected ARMM officials expire at noon of Sept. 30 this year.

Interior Secretary Jesse Robredo, Presidential Adviser on Political Affairs Ronaldo Llamas and Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process Teresita Deles have been tasked by Mr. Aquino with drafting the guidelines for the selection process.

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Find right ARMM leader, P-Noy urged

A NONGOVERNMENT organization yesterday lauded President Aquino and members of the House of Representatives and the Senate for the speedy approval of the postponement of the elections in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) elections and called on them to support in finding the right people to effect change in the region.

Amanie "Bai Ani" Dimnimba, convener of Ipad (Center for Peace and Development in Mindanao) and former mayor of Tampakan, Cotabato del Sur, said the elections at this time was not the solution to the problems in the ARMM as it did not "reflect the will of the people," citing the Maguindanao massacre as one of the factors that subverted that will.

Having been a former public servant, Dimnimba said she knows how elections were orchestrated in Muslim Mindanao and that the only needed—noncorrupted leaders "who have the political will" to enhance the rule of law.

"We have to help the President find the right persons," Dimnimba said in the weekly Balitaan sa Tinapayan media forum in Tomlinson, Manila, on Saturday.

Although her group would have chosen another time, she said she was hopeful the "reform agenda of the President for the ARMM" would not be compromised.

In a letter of appeal to the selection committee, Ipad said Mr. Aquino's choice of leaders for ARMM would reflect the sincerity of his administration to carry out a real "good governance, transparency and accountability" in line with his call to follow the "road not taken" (straight path).

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Ps 80, 2, 3ab, 3cd, 5cd-6
The Lord has made known his salvation.
1st Reading: 2 Cor 6:1-10

Brothers and sisters: Being God's helpers, we urge you: do it not in vain for us to say that you received this grace of God. Scripture says: At the favorable time I listened to you, on the day of salvation I helped you. This is the favorable time; this is the day of salvation.

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Sometimes we are honored, at other times insulted, we receive criticism as well as praise. We are regarded as liars although we speak the truth; as unknown though our acts are well known; as dying and yet are living. Punished, never come upon us but we have not, as yet, been put to death. We appear to be afflicted, yet always joyful; we seem to be poor, but we actually make many rich; we are needy, but we possess everything!

Gospel: Mt 5:38-42

Jesus said to his disciples, "You have heard that it was said: An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth. But I say to you: do not oppose evil with evil. If someone slaps you on your right cheek, turn and offer the other. If someone sues you in court for your tunic, give your cloak as well. If anyone forces you to go one mile, go two of the second mile. Give when asked and do not turn your back on anyone who wants to borrow from you."

Reflection:

The message to Jose—love is love. Why? Precisely because we know that in the end, love will always triumph over evil. We often find this hard to believe in but Jesus teaches us that the love we receive is not the source of pain. It is not through direct confrontational use of the same ways of evil that will work as victory, rather under power of goodness within each of us which transforms hate to love, enmity to peace, and destruction to creation. Love continues to prove it is not manifested in our disposition to hate, to use destructive forces and to use distorted idle of protocols. love wins, love always wins. Believe and love in love.

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How's plan vs rebellion going? AFP wants to know

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

THE MILITARY wants to measure its progress in its new counter-insurgency strategy.

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) has teamed up with the National Statistics Coordination Board (NSCB) to assess the Aquino administration's internal peace and security plan dubbed "Bayanihan" six months after it was implemented.

The AFP wants to measure the effectiveness of its civil-military operations or community development projects to assess their impact on the Internal Peace and Security Plan (Ipsp) called Bayanihan.

The NSCB is the country's policy making and coordinating body on statistical matters.

Bayanihan, which took effect on Jan. 1 will be in force until the end of the Aquino administration on June 2016.

It calls for a paradigm shift by the military from the combat-focused approach it used in the past to a human security or "people-centered" approach.

It also stresses that ending the communist and Muslim insurgencies is not just the military's concern but requires a "whole of nation" approach.

The AFP and NSCB have been meeting to come up with "data that may be utilized in evaluating the progress and effectiveness" of the military's campaign plan.

At its latest meeting last week at NSCB headquarters in Makati City, the NSCB staff led by National Statistical Coordination Board Director Candida Antolin-Quimbo met with the AFP Internal Peace and Security Plan Bayanihan Management Team headed by Maj. Gen. Jose Ferdinand Dizon, chief of the Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Civil Military Operations (J7), with representatives from the Civil Relations Service, Judge Advocate General's Office, Office of the Civil Engineer, and the Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Reserve Affairs.

"This collaborative effort with the NSCB is just one of the highlights of our Bayanihan plan wherein stakeholders are involved in the assessment," AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Eduardo Oban Jr. said in a statement.

The military's name-tied with the Bayanihan Assessment Plan to spell as a guide to evaluate the new security plan.

It said that in assessing the Bayanihan, it will use indicators that are "observable, quantifiable and/or subjective" in the form of reports from military field units and surveys.

Dizon said the military will "win the peace rather than defeating the enemy." Bayanihan demands from soldiers utmost respect for human rights and international warfare rules and recognition of peace talks with communist and secessionist rebels as the only way to end the decades-long armed conflict.

Citing historical experiences since martial law, the military admitted that "the greatest hindrance to stronger civilian-military cooperation is the continued perception of human rights violations allegedly committed by military personnel."

In his letter, Dizon said that "the decades-long strategy employed by the government that puts a premium on a military solution remains inadequate in effectively addressing armed security threats."

Bayanihan replaced the nine-year-long Oplan Bantay Laya in the Arroyo administration that was linked to rampant human rights abuses.

BI board complete

THE THIRD member board of commissioners of the Bureau of Immigration (BI) will be completed today when soldier-turned-lawyer Siegfred Mison assumes his post as associate commissioner.

Mison, who was appointed by President Aquino, is expected to address BI employees at the flag raising ceremony today.

The board is headed by Commissioner Ricardo David Jr., who was named BI head after he retired as Armed Forces of the Philippines chief of staff on March 6. Aquino also appointed lawyer Abdullah Mangudara, a former Lanao del Norte congressman, as associate commissioner.

The board is responsible for approving visa applications of foreigners and deciding deportation cases.

Mison graduated from the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York, in 1987. He took up law at the Ateneo de Manila University after his retirement. He has a degree at University of Southern California in 2006.

Jerome Aning

Grow herbs in city

THE PHILIPPINE Association of University Women-University of the Philippines chapter (PAUW-UP) will hold a free seminar on June 15 at 2 p.m. a lecture-demo on "Growing Veggies and Herbs the UP way for Urban Gardening" to be conducted by Dr. Eduardo O. Pamplona Jr., professor of Soil Science at UP Los Baños. The UPWF tickets on his tutorial.

The seminar will be held at Executive House, UP Diliman, Quezon City. Veggie-growing kits will be given to participants.

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Mike Arroyo nixes bet for Ombudsman

By Jeremy Dating

FORMER first gentleman Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo, husband of former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, has called on the Judicial and Bar Council (JBC) not to consider the nomination of Ernesto Francisco Jr. for the position of Ombudsman because he said the lawyer was biased against the Arroyo family.

In a June 8 letter to the JBC, which screens applicants and nominees to the Office of the Ombudsman, Arroyo said Francisco was not qualified to be endorsed as the next Ombudsman "because the history of his legal (service) would show his other-than-partiality and bias which does not augur well for the independence and impartiality needed for the esteemed position."

Arroyo said the nominee might become an instrument for the "persecution" of the Arroyo family by the Aquino administration.

"His animus against me and my family would show without a doubt his prejudice. My family, which appears to be the subject of vindictive prosecution by the present administration, cannot expect fair treatment from adversary. Francisco should not be endorsed and appointed as the next Ombudsman," Arroyo said.

Under JBC rules, Francisco is given five days to file a comment on Arroyo's letter.

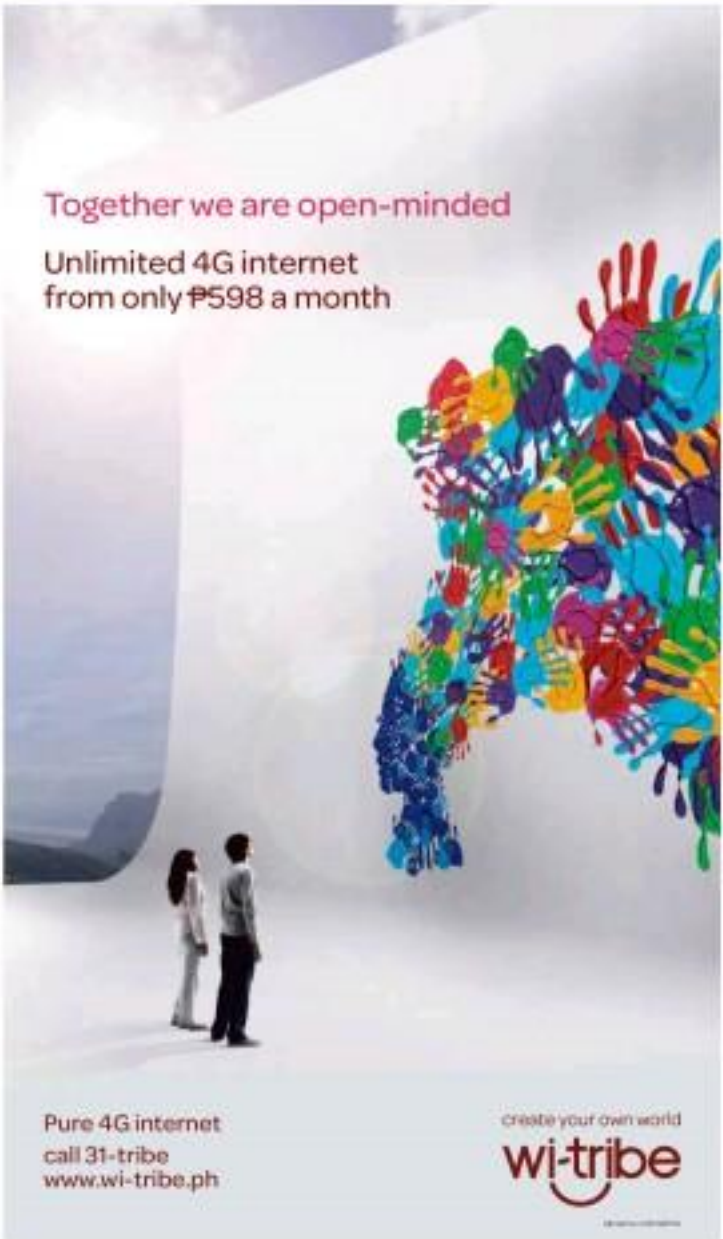
"My divorce has prejudiced my wife, former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, her administration and myself, as evidenced by several cases he has filed against us."

The former first gentleman cited a 2008 suit filed by Francisco in the Supreme Court seeking to nullify the House of Representatives' dismissal of the impeachment complaint against President Arroyo.

In 2008, Francisco filed a complaint before the Ombudsman against Arroyo in connection with the NBN-ZTE scandal. When the case was dismissed, Francisco filed a petition before the Supreme Court seeking the reversal of the dismissal.

In 2009, Francisco filed a case in a lower court alleging that public funds were being used for the political advertisements of Mrs. Arroyo and other officials.

Francisco first gained fame as the counsel of groups opposed to the toll hikes on expressways. He also took on a crusade against corruption, filing several cases against allegedly anomalous projects and several government officials during the Estrada and Arroyo presidencies.



Palace says US will side with PH in China conflict

From page A1

Jovic Yap Salonga

"We should make up and not indulge in unfruitful thinking," he said in a phone interview.

After warning Manila against taking unilateral actions in Spratlys, Chinese Ambassador Liu Jianchao last week called on diplomats to stop exploring the idea of exploiting resources in the area claimed by China without Beijing's permission.

Liu's concession was prompted by Manila's charges of an intrusion by Chinese aircraft and researchers in Philippine territory near the Spratly Islands.

Arroyo also invited Malacañang for lobbying President Aquino defend the government position on the Spratlys, instead of the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA).

"With the President speaking, the country has more power to maneuver, and lesser inertia, and the DFA, admin like, does not talk," he said.

Like China and the United States, the Philippines should speak on the matter through its ambassadors, or the DFA, he proposed.

"The DFA should get out of it itself, do its duty, and take the initiative to spell out the Philippine position. Only as a last resort should the President of the Philippines speak out on this issue," he said.

Demilitarization

Senate President Pablo V. Enrile yesterday called for the demilitarization of the Spratlys and vote to diplomacy as the means to resolve the dispute.

"The disputed area must be devoid of any military presence. Civilian developers jointly agreed to by claimants must take charge so we can protect the resources and use them in an environment-friendly manner so they will not be exhausted," Enrile told reporters.

He said this could be set up under the United Nations and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean).

Otherwise, Enrile said the dispute could be resolved through the Declaration of Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea, which China and the Asean signed in 2002 to maintain the status quo over Spratlys.

The group of islets in the South China Sea, believed to be rich in oil and gas deposits, are claimed in whole by China, Taiwan, and Vietnam, while portions are claimed by Malaysia, Brunei and the Philippines.

Thompson's statement last week did not surprise many members of the House of Representatives.

Speaker Feliciano Belmonte Jr. said it was proper not to involve the United States at this point because the situation could still be solved diplomatically.

Belmonte said the best approach was to reach a common stand with other claimants against China.

Nacionalista Rep. Benhur Salimbangon said he fully supported the US posture in any potential conflict not involving a crucial ally, such as Israel, Taiwan and South Korea.

"But I believe that in an open conflict, which is unlikely, the US would resort to gunboat diplomacy so to be more precise, aircraft carrier diplomacy to make sure free... of navigation is preserved," Uribe said.

He said the Philippines should be prepared to be alone in tackling the West Philippine Sea question as a diplomatic challenge, but it should also work to strike alliances with other countries that have been the victim of China's aggression.

"We should use all international fora possible to project China as a misbehaving international body. We should internationalize the issue to both official and unofficial fora.

Embassy . . .

From page A1

Asia in recent days that have raised tensions in the region" and that the United States opposed "the use or threat of force" by any of the countries with rival claims to the Spratly Islands.

The lessons had cautioned Thompson for comment on President Aquino's deputy spokesperson Abigail Valte's invoking of the 1951 Mutual Defense Treaty (MDT) and state calls on Manila under the treaty. Manila could count on Washington's support if the situation with Beijing deteriorated.

Signed on Aug. 30, 1951, in Washington, the Mutual Defense Treaty provides:

"Article IV. Each Party recognizes that an armed attack in the Pacific Area on either of the Parties would be dangerous to its own peace and safety and declares that it would act to meet the common dangers in accordance with its constitutional processes.

"Any such armed attack and all measures taken as a result thereof shall be immediately reported to the Security Council of the United Nations. Such measures shall be terminated when the Security Council has taken the measures necessary to restore and maintain international peace and security.

"Article V. For purposes of Article IV, an armed attack on either of the Parties is deemed to include an armed attack on the metropolitan territory of either of the Parties, or on the island territories under its jurisdiction in the Pacific Ocean, its armed forces, public vessels or aircraft in the Pacific."

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Spratlys row a test of P-Noy mettle

From page 1

Yalu Sea and nearby waters.

The Armed Forces of the Philippines' spokesperson, Commodore Jose Miguel Rodrigues, said the exercises, called "Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training" (Carat), had been programmed since last year.

Officials said the exercises were in accordance with the 1951 Mutual Defense Treaty and aimed at testing the capabilities of the two navies to undertake "freedom of navigation operations."

Heightened tension

The exercises are going to take place amid heightening tensions in what the Philippines calls the "West Philippine Sea" and the others call the "South China Sea" fueled by Philippine protests over alleged intrusions by Chinese vessels into Philippine territorial waters.

The second contempt: Against claims by Philippine military authorities that the exercises were planned within the framework of the defense treaty, the United States was less certain of military ties amid the conflict in relations between China and the Philippines and China.

The US Embassy issued a statement on Saturday in response to a Malacañang statement expressing confidence that Washington would honor its commitments under the defense treaty in event of the still of an enemy.

"The US does not take sides in regional territorial disputes," said US Embassy spokesperson Rebecca Thompson.

Thompson said the United States was "troubled by incidences in the South China Sea in recent days that have raised tensions in the region" and that Washington opposed "the threat of force" by any of the countries with rival claims on the Spratlys.

No automatic claim

The defense treaty text leaves on the circumstances in which the United States would come in to defend an ally against armed attack. It merely says the treaty partners "declare publicly and formally their sense of unity and their common determination to defend themselves against external armed attack."

There is no automatic US intervention clause to aid attacked allies, and amateur spokespersons in Malacañang are cautioning others to expect automatic US intervention if the conflict escalates.

As a security lesson in Singapore on June 4, US Defense Secretary Robert Gates warned that clashes among rivals in the South China Sea unless nations with conflicting claims adopt restraint soon to settle disputes peacefully.

At the same forum, Philippine Defense Secretary Voltaire Gazmin warned that "actions by other states... unnecessarily make other states like the Philippines worried and concerned." He said such a sense of insecurity also results when ordinary fishermen are removed by foreign vessels in home waters.

Manila's fears

Gazmin's warnings followed Malacañang statements accusing China of encroaching peace and stability in Asia by allegedly sending warships to intimidate rival claimants in the Spratly Islands.

Manila cited several incidents from February to May when the Chinese Navy allegedly opened fire on Filipino fishermen, intimidated a Philippine oil exploration ship, and put guns and troops in a Philippine-claimed area.

Manila said the unloading of construction materials on a reef claimed by the Philippines raised fears of undermining a regional agreement designed to avoid actions that "complicate or escalate disputes."

Freedom of navigation

Gen. Liang Guanglie, China's defense minister, referred at the forum criticisms that China was acting belligerently in the South China Sea.

Speaking after Vietnam and the Philippines accused China of aggressive behavior, Liang denied that China was threatening security in the unusually multilaterally energy-rich waters. He said "freedom of navigation has never been violated."

On June 9, China warned its neighbors to stop searching for oil in the contested region without its permission.

Search for oil

A day after Beijing warned Manila against unilateral actions, Chinese Ambassador Ma Keqing issued another warning: "We're calling on all parties to stop searching the possibility of exploiting resources in the area where China has claims."

China issued the warning after the leaked a report from Hanoi that China, for the second time in two weeks, had harassed Vietnamese vessels conducting seismic surveys within Vietnam's continental shelf. Hanoi declared it was determined to protect its "sovereignty" over areas it claims in the South China Sea.

Unlike the Philippines, Vietnam has no mutual defense treaty with the United States and has had armed encounters with China over territorial issues.

Diplomacy backed by guns

With a Navy too small to effectively stop incursions of Chinese naval vessels, the Philippines is not taking the aggressive actions of China in the South China Sea lying down. It has signaled it is taking steps to acquire defense equipment from the United States.

The new Philippine ambassador to Washington, Jose Cuisia Jr., has asked the defense department in Manila to prepare an inventory of weapons to beef up the country's military capability. The weapons list is regarded as the first step in carrying out long arms purchases from the United States.

The told that some of these weapons could at least stall Chinese vessels invading Philippine encroachments in the area.

Diplomatic solution is still held as a priority over armed action, but diplomacy also needs to be backed by guns, so he could...

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World's shortest man is Filipino

From page A1

In the Sulawesi it the Jonny suddenly acquired celebrity status and may now walk tall in his new right following his proclamation as the world's shortest man alive.

A representative of the Guinness Book of World Records was in the coastal town of Gindangan, Zamboanga del Norte, on Sunday to officially confer the title on Jonny, all 59 centimeters (23.2 inches) of him.

Jonny, who wore t-shirt-sized shoes and a white T-shirt emblazoned with the Guinness seal, took over the title from Khagendra Thapa Magar of Nepal, who is 67 cm (26.4 inches) tall, according to Guinness representative Craig Glenday.

Showered with a feast

The event sparked celebration in Jonny's far-flung hometown, with his parents, villagers and officials showering the rowdy fiesta-minded with a feast, a salon, balloons and cash gifts.

Gindangan, 750 kilometers south of Manila, had not had so much attention in years — with dozens of journalists descending on this fishing and farming town of 90,000 people to cover the event.

"Thank you," Jonny told the crowd through his father Reynaldo who interpreted his son's words spoken in the local language.

Having his cake

Jonny blew the candles on a cake and slapped heartily each time the crowd applauded. He was later heard saying "happy," or "I'm tired."

Jonny's mother Concepcion grew teary-eyed during the ceremony. She said earlier that she was happy with her third born's instant fame.

Monday said he was struck with the lively personality of Jonny, who constantly smiled and appeared not to be hampered by his condition.

Jonny — who is proud that he is not a toddler and has outlived a dwarf woman — was photographed propping himself up using empty Coca-Cola bottles, which were taller than his waistline.

Cheeky smile

"Although he's short, he takes that in stride," Glenday told The Associated Press. "He has this cheeky smile."

Aside from a Guinness certificate, the crown does not come with any cash prize.

Monday hopes the international fame will bring in gifts and donations, particularly medical supplies to ensure the health of Jonny, who that is so crippled to be able to stand with his weak bones.

Nobody could explain why Jonny stopped growing a few months after birth, his father said.

Bottle-size when born

Gindangan Vice Mayor Rene Jagonia, a doctor, said Jonny "was just the size of a 1-liter (2-pint) soft drink bottle" when he was born and speculated he may have suffered from an endocrine or a birth-related defect.

Jonny's three other siblings — a brother and two sisters — are all of average size for their ages.

Concepcion said she and her husband tried to send Jonny to school but neither he nor she he distracted other children's attention.

Local officials got the idea of informing the Guinness records committee about Jonny's from journalists, who learned about his condition and the possible fame that awaited him.

"The recognition was a good birthday gift for Jonny," Mayor Nilo Ely, who also witnessed the confirmation, told the raucous celebrations.

"We had fried chicken and spaghetti. He whispered something to me that I almost did not understand. I could not hear his mouth 'Where's the Coke?'" Ely added.

Bubbly, proud

Jonny's size may be a handicap "but he is not a shy boy," Ely noted. "He is bubbly and looks really proud. Magpakita siya gamitya (He could even be a show-off)."

Ely said another party was to be held Sunday night for Jonny at the municipal hall. "We want to make this birthday very special for him," the mayor said.

Jonny's father is a blacksmith who could hardly make ends meet but the family, while his mother helps out by tending a backyard farm in their upland village of Cembia, 29 km from the town proper.

'Gift from heaven'

Still, having Jonny was considered by the couple "as a gift from heaven," according to municipal administrator Alan Salida.

"His parents asked for him. It took the couple more than two years to have him that is why they consider him a gift," the official recalled.

For Salida, Jonny's story was definitely more than just another entry in the Guinness book.

"It shows there is beauty despite the shortcomings of a person. If we look at him, he really is unique person. That happiness is genuine, something that can inspire others," he said.

With a report from AP

J.P. REY: all of 59 centimeters, smiles as he is announced by Guinness World Records adjudicator Craig Glenday (left) at the municipal hall of Gindangan in Zamboanga del Norte.

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INQUIRER

OPINION

Political bishop

EDITORIAL

IT IS a great pity that Bishop Juan de Dios M. Pueblos does not live up to any of his majestic names. His partisan political posturing severs neither "Dios" (God) nor "pueblos" (the people). Instead, his view of state and society is crassly, crudely aligned with that of the late, unlamented administration. Really, he should be known by another name: Juan de Dicta, Gloria Arroyo.

One does not need to be a supporter of the second Aquino administration to be repelled by the latest, utterly obscene outburst of the good bishop. It is raw politics contorted brutally and ineptly by a politician to a ransack. Pueblos did not even bother to disguise his tirade against President Aquino under the ill-fitting clothes of morality; instead, he spoke directly as a conspirator. This, we should all of us agree, regardless of whom we voted for in last year's elections, is why the Constitution demands the separation of Church and State.

Pueblos, speaking from what to all appearances is intimate knowledge, declared that an anti-Aquino campaign was to the media. "There are groups that are actively preparing for his ouster from his post," he said in a radio interview. He answered a question about the likelihood of President Aquino being ousted with a curtsied response. "That's a huge possibility but we have to follow (a) certain process."

We have written in this same space about the limitations and shortcomings of the Aquino administration, especially about the President's seeming inability to demand (but for a few exceptions) the highest standards from the friends he appointed to high office. But the good bishop's revelations are altogether of a different nature. Different because it is illegal. And different because it is unreal.

The President can be removed legally only through two thoroughly political means: by impeachment or through an Edsa-style revolt. Given the present composition of both chambers of Congress, and given the inherent difficulty in gathering political support for impeachment, the first option seems highly improbable. Given the President's still high satisfaction ratings, the strength of the political parties that make up the administration coalition and, not least, the lessons learned from the Arroyo administration, the second option seems even more unlikely.

This leaves non-political and therefore illegal options. Listen to what Pueblos himself says: he said his counsel has been that the means to oust the President should be "without bloodshed and without violence." He is definitely not speaking of impeachment; he is almost certainly not talking about people power (he wouldn't know it if it materialized before him). What in God's name, then, is he rumbling on about? As a citizen of this republic, he should be hailed before a congressional investigating committee and be made to explain both his conspiratorial statements and his conspiracy.

The good bishop had also said: "He is not really worthy to be a President. That job is not for him. The nation[al] will be out of his post, will [be] better for the Philippines." As a citizen, he is of course entitled to his own opinion. But more than the good bishop does not say anything about the Church's social doctrine; does not advert to any moral or universal values that may outweigh the corruptocracy he is a part of; does not argue against horrific policy or governmental mistakes of the administration (like Reg. Ed. ed Lagman's hypocritical attempt to find dirt against the President's friends, Pueblos is content to make sweeping statements, conclusions in search of premises). He merely assumes that because the Aquino administration is on the other side, then it is wrong and, despite the will of the electorate, in need of immediate ouster. In other words, he is speaking as a mere politician.

But that we really care about the good bishop's politics. He failed to sound the alarm over any of the many scandals that haunted the Arroyo administration; why should we consider his outbursts as anything but partisan?

Here's one quick test for Pueblos. When Ronaldo Recto, then the economic planning secretary, testified in the Senate that Benjamin Abalos, then the chair of the Commission on Elections, offered him a P200-million bribe, and then refused to divulge what Arroyo, then the President, said when he complained, did we hear Pueblos pronounce on the unworthiness of any of them? What, tell us his political allies? *Per Dios, per santo!*

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On Jacky's kidnapping and 'tambucho-killing'

AS I SEE IT

Sassi M. Cruz

ARRET 101 update on the 10-year-old kidnapping for ransom case against seven Chinese nationals from which 3 Filipino relatives themselves, citing one reason or another, but I think the prerogative neither will have him/her even close of the trial room. Justice Secretary was first tapped in La Union and P5.6 million was demanded for her release, which the family paid. She was rescued by a combined police team, the kidnappers captured and the ransom money recovered.

One of her rescuers was then Regional Police Director Jaime Lambino, who later became chief of the Philippine National Police (PNP). When his wife died, Lambino courted and married Jacky, who is here now. Then Jacky was reportedly kidnapped here in an earlier robbery along with another long-standing case, this one of double murder and a fractured homicide case in Cagayan province. (She has been pending for 10 years as 17 years of age.) Lambino's police inhibited themselves from the case not after another Art 97, Jacky contacted the accused, now the mayor of the Cagayan town. Unlike Jacky's kidnapping case, however, this double-murder case is still pending at the CA.)

The good news today is that the decision on Jacky's case will finally be promulgated by Judge Antonio Reyeres of Branch 32 of the Manila RTC against the seven accused on June 18. Mayor will die CA decision on the 17-year old double-murder case against Mayor Ap- pears to be promulgated.

* * *

The other good follow-up news is that the controversial "tambucho-killing" of dogs has been outlawed with finality by the Commission on Animal Welfare (CAW), about which we also wrote in this column earlier. Tambucho-killing is the method of euthanizing dogs by asphyxiating them with carbon monoxide from the tail pipes (the tambucho) of motor vehicles while confined in a closed box. This is a very painful and cruel way of killing dogs. This is **con ordenanza but cruelty to animals**, according to animal welfare groups.

In addition your memory, the CAW outlawed tambucho-killing during a meeting on Aug. 24, 2010 but the Animal Welfare Di-

(TURN TO PAGE A17)

rector (AWD) of the Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI), which acts as the secretariat of the CAW, did not circularize the ban. Instead AWD's Angel B. Manco called for another "consultation" last April 2011 to which many of the members of CAW were not invited. The "consultation" was supposed again to **sanction using for the methods of euthanizing dogs and tambucho-killing was to be** settled in the fact. The Philippine Animal Welfare Society (PAWS) and other animal welfare groups.

Finally BAI Director Elvira Soriano, his son's boss, showed up at the CAW meeting last May 30 and schooled us on euthanasia. After not listening to Manco's explanations, Director Soriano said there shouldn't have been a meeting on the tambucho issue last April 2011 because tambucho-killing was already deemed as a CAW meeting last year where there was a quorum and a majority of the CAW members present had the vote otherwise.

Although Soriano's order was to discontinue the order as soon as a majority of CAW members have already signed it, it still took the BAI two weeks to furnish PAWS a copy of the recommendations. Virginia Jardeo of the Philippine Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (PSPCA) even assisted BAI staff members in the delivery of the memo and in getting a majority of the signatures as early as May 30, but Soriano allegedly refused to release as he said he was still waiting for the three absent members "to be informed."

Exasperated, Anna Cabrera of PAWS whipped out her cellphone during CAW's May 30 meeting and called Director Soriano. Soriano and Bismo "to inform them" as that the issue of "euthanizing" can be resolved. After which Cabrera asked if Dr. Karlo Nicolas, who was in Japan, can be informed by e-mail. In a time where information can be disseminated through modern technology, it is a wonder why Manco's 2011 to 2012 stalling on disseminating the resolution outlawing tambucho-killing. Or was it because Director Dwayne Alcala has signed the memorandum for which we thank the secretary.)

Incidentally, Dr. Ruth Soriano of the Agricultural Training Institute (ATI), despite having been "informed," "refused to sign" the resolution, saying "Baka magalit ang mga vets sa akin pag nag-sign ako dyan (The veterinarians might get angry with me if I sign that)." She did not explain her statement.

Dahil wala dito, Director Soriano himself told the CAW members present at the May 30 meeting that, to all his wants to meets to- morrow parks of the Philippines, even in Batasang pambas, he has one man a city executive- ness." In other words, he doesn't think anyone will really be upset by the move to outlaw tambucho-killing.

It was unfortunate that Director Soriano was not present during the May 24 meeting because he would really have been puzzled why his simple intervention to immediately enact the revised administrative order with the deleted tambucho provision in Agriculture Secretary Alcala it not was followed.

The CAW resolution outlawing tambucho-killing was not wasted along with the resolution. Dr. Manco replied: "The resolution has to be prepared and sent first before the AO can be issued/order signed." Take note, the resolution was more than the deletion of tambucho-killing should have happened shortly after the Aug. 24, 2010 meeting.

When will the AO itself be issued? Perhaps after another memo from Dr. Manco "informing" Secretary Alcala that the act of making easy things more complicated.

Animal welfare groups said that those who voted for tambucho-killing have been surprised by the angry backlash of public sentiment. Let this be a lesson to all those concerned in his blog that the public shouldn't go to the circus of extermination who voted for tambucho-killing.

KKK

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

FIRST OFF, let's separate grain from chaff. Though there's a large grain of truth in the charge of "KKK" or "kotongan, kaltasan, kaltasan," it's also full of chaff. In fact, the chaff is overpowering the grain.

The chaff comes in the form of the GMA camp prosecuting it exceptionally rigorously. Be-cause someone "has come to savaging prosecution for corruption by the Noy government. Then last year, GMA has preferred offense—to defense, which is why she's now facing four sets (SET) OF CASES in the book of offenses.

Last week, Mikel Lagman, a GMA adviser, went on the offensive. He said he was all set to file a bill calling for the investigation of Part of 9-11's refugees. They were flown there for bribing Filipino firms for modeling, not Odessa for owning a P40-million house, Coral Pizzaline for filing tax evasion charges against political enemies and Margie Juico for irregularities in the PCSO (including transferring the PCSO headquarters from the Quezon business to the PGC).

Just as well, last week, Bishop num de Dios Pueblos, yet another GMA stalwart, went on the offensive. "We'll have a Philippines governed by the friends of Noy ... The friends were they to be presidents. That job is not for him. The earlier he is out of his post, the better for us."

What can one say? Lest we forget, the GMA camp has been claiming credit for one thing only: the Noy administration's push for one thing only: holding Arroyo accountable for her misdeeds. Yet, failing to do that faster, he has earned, as mentioned some, to ideas, to acronyms, to name-of-all names.

Pueblos, as a congressional investigator to file, by all means. He may "don't know about Pnoy and Torres, I have them to their devices. But Odessa has already answered the charge against him. The license to control by businesses in Lim and it was acquitted and before Pnoy became a governor on the presidential business.

So what if Pacquiao is filing tax evasion charges against political enemies? He might as. The reasons they are political enemies is that they are enemies, and if Noy's agenda, announced in his chronic promise, is to fight corruption. They should be thankful to be only thing that has no the born filed against them is tax evasion. Because the only thing they can charge Noy with is not having their own Ombudsman that should have cast the mail about their anomaly. Pacquiao is an immutable to university filing tax returns against them, he is humble. The GMA camp was engaged in civil struggle to be singularly pompous.

As to Margie Juico, that takes the cake. I myself have heard the various accusations against her in anonymous text messages and edited communications. Some accepting bribes, real- estate gambling, kids into playing rather than supervising talking. Yet none of the accusations has carried any details, any or wisp of evidence. No documents, no photographs or recording, however distorted, no reputations so ready to be savaging. Just those anonymous text messages and spirit, with the circumspicuous constantly changing like a bad dream, in the belief or hope that the passed on from mouth-to-mouth-eventually become truth. Well, it wasn't.

What's important to know about it is that Juico, whose name has been unmentioned since she served as Corys's deputy governing, has been exercising herself trying to revive the PCSO of the dregs of the earth, the ones who have turned it into a snake pit over the years. The days of irregularity in the transfer of the PCSO to the PEC came only from the slow- blooming blooms, who has treated, despite warnings from the public originally, as a gentle lamb. Juico has proven to be a pit- to-antagonist, that is to perfectly safe. Indeed, she has indicted, despite the vow to PEC being disciples, on multiple cases. He is the one who sought to her investigated for having the hots for the place. What kinds of dealings she made?

Additionally, Lagman ought to reassess his office to QC if he buys Malacañang's word against who was in Japan, can be informed by e- mail. In a time where information can be disseminated through modern technology, it is a wonder why Manco's 2011 to 2012 stalling on disseminating the resolution outlawing tambucho-killing. Or was it because Secretary Dwayne Alcala has signed the memorandum for which we thank the secretary.)

Incidentally, Dr. Ruth Soriano of the Agricultural Training Institute (ATI), despite having been "informed," "refused to sign" the resolution, saying "Baka magalit ang mga vets sa akin pag nag-sign ako dyan (The veterinarians might get angry with me if I sign that)." She did not explain her statement.

Dahil wala dito, Director Soriano himself told the CAW members present at the May 30 meeting that, to all his wants to meets to- morrow parks of the Philippines, even in Batasang pambas, he has one man a city executive- ness." In other words, he doesn't think anyone will really be upset by the move to outlaw tambucho-killing.

It was unfortunate that Director Soriano was not present during the May 24 meeting because he would really have been puzzled why his simple intervention to immediately enact the revised administrative order with the deleted tambucho provision in Agriculture Secretary Alcala it not was followed.

The CAW resolution outlawing tambucho-killing was not wasted along with the resolution. Dr. Manco replied: "The resolution has to be prepared and sent first before the AO can be issued/order signed." Take note, the resolution was more than the deletion of tambucho-killing should have happened shortly after the Aug. 24, 2010 meeting.

When will the AO itself be issued? Perhaps after another memo from Dr. Manco "informing" Secretary Alcala that the act of making easy things more complicated.

Animal welfare groups said that those who voted for tambucho-killing have been surprised by the angry backlash of public sentiment. Let this be a lesson to all those concerned in his blog that the public shouldn't go to the circus of extermination who voted for tambucho-killing.

KKK

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

FIRST OFF, let's separate grain from chaff. Though there's a large grain of truth in the charge of "KKK" or "kotongan, kaltasan, kaltasan," it's also full of chaff. In fact, the chaff is overpowering the grain.

The chaff comes in the form of the GMA camp prosecuting it exceptionally rigorously. Be-cause someone "has come to savaging prosecution for corruption by the Noy government. Then last year, GMA has preferred offense—to defense, which is why she's now facing four sets (SET) OF CASES in the book of offenses.

Last week, Mikel Lagman, a GMA adviser, went on the offensive. He said he was all set to file a bill calling for the investigation of Part of 9-11's refugees. They were flown there for bribing Filipino firms for modeling, not Odessa for owning a P40-million house, Coral Pizzaline for filing tax evasion charges against political enemies and Margie Juico for irregularities in the PCSO (including transferring the PCSO headquarters from the Quezon business to the PGC).

Just as well, last week, Bishop num de Dios Pueblos, yet another GMA stalwart, went on the offensive. "We'll have a Philippines governed by the friends of Noy ... The friends were they to be presidents. That job is not for him. The earlier he is out of his post, the better for us."

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Synchronizing ARMM elections

THE SENATE has approved the bill synchronizing the next ARMM elections with the 2013 national elections. The bill originated from the House of Representatives but, even with the changes made by the Senate, the House re-approved it. The Palace will certainly approve it. He has been asking for it.

The effect, once it becomes law, is that no one presently held to elective officials will become vacant and will have to be filled somehow. The bill provides that the resulting vacancies should be filled by appointment by the President. There will be neither the Supreme Court declares it unconstitutional. What are the constitutional issues that might be brought to the Supreme Court?

I have it being said that changing the date of election fixed by the statute may run afoul of the autonomy of the Autonomous Region. I doubt that such a challenge will prosper. The current date of elections, first Monday of August 2011, was determined neither by the Constitution nor by the Organic Act of the ARMM. This current date was fixed by simple statute. And since Congress has no authority to pass irrepealable laws, the current date may be changed by Congress—so as how it has been changed in the past.

Moreover, the Autonomous Region is not an independent sovereignty. It is still within the sovereignty of the Republic and the laws that govern it must conform with the Constitution of the Republic. It is the intent of the Constitution, already quoted, that the provisions of the 1987 Constitution and ordained by the Supreme Court in 1991, that local elections must be synchronized with the national elections. Hence ARMM elections must be held thereafter.

The more delicate problem, however, is the manner of filling the resulting vacancies. The laws will create vacancies lasting for 21 months. Both the House and the Senate have opted against giving to current incumbents the right to hold over

SOUNDING BOARD

Fr. Joaquin G. Bernas, S.J.

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in the position. Could Congress have opted for giving them the right to hold over?

It is said that allowing holdovers would violate the Constitution which says that the terms of local officials of fixed in three years. In my view, however, allowing holdovers will not amend the three-year term. It will merely transfer the power of the officials and the constitutional term will remain at three years. One Court has on a number of occasions pointed to the difference between term and tenure. Constitutional terms may be changed only by constitutional amendment while tenure can be shorter or longer than the term. By statute, the death of an incumbent before the end of three years does not change the term.

Congress has opted not to allow holdovers by the constitutional elected officials. Instead, it has provided for filling the vacancies by appointment by the President.

Again, the principle in the law on public officers is that when there is a vacancy and the law has not provided for the manner of filling the vacancy, the vacancy may be filled by appointment of the President. What Congress has done is merely to affirm a standard power of the President to make the appointments.

There appears to be resistance is being considered for giving to the President a free hand on whom to appoint. But this is the nature of the appointing power. It is the executive's discretion to decide on whom to nominate for appointment and duties of an office.

The discretion of the appointing authority may be limited by law as when the President is allowed to choose only from among a list prepared by another body. This is the case in the appointments of judges and justices, including members of the Supreme Court and the Ombudsman. The Philippine Constitution also limits among a list submitted by the Judicial and Bar Council. (How that the Judicial and Bar Council is immune from being influenced by the President? Similarly, in the drafting of the Organic Law for Muslim Mindanao, Congress supported to be bound by a consultative committee composed of representatives "appointed" by the President from a list of nominees from multi-sectoral bodies.

But the restrictions in the House is an attempt to limit the appointing authority of the President to choose from a list. Even the appointment of a list submitted by a consultative body that he has created is the consultative body itself still be limited by the President. In other, the President still, for all practical purposes, retains free hand in the choice of appointees. But since the appointing power is found in our final, let's not draw the wrong still do.

There is an important provision in the House version which the Senate chose to eliminate. The House version prohibited those appointed by the President from running in the 2013 local elections by ARMM positions. The Senate eliminated the prohibition but the House did not object. Clearly the majority in Congress is but ingrate you so, what's next?

A Moro spring

KRIS-CROSSING MINDANAO

Yvonne Shudyla

THE BIL a cost for President Benigno S. Aquino III who called for it, and the broad coalition of leaders advocates who lobbied for the passage of the Bangsamoro Basic Law. Muslim Rabbi Haj Murad Ibrahim, originally scheduled in late, just this year, to synchronize their work the local elections in 2013.

Voting 23-7 in favor, the Senate approved on second reading the measure sponsored by Sen. Franklin Drilon, after the House of Representatives passed HB 4146 into calling for the postponement of its ARMM polls. The House and the following day to review the amendments made by the Senate. It is not sound to adopt the Senate version in its entirety.

But even before re-signing can late by President Aquino, the House opposition is already planning to challenge its constitutionality before the Supreme Court. Minority leader Rodolfo Farinas questioned the passage of the bill without the benefit of a bicameral conference despite differences in the local election terms and tenure positions.

Sen. Juan Miguel Zubiri, nonetheless referred to as "the favorite boy Magindanao" because he alone among the seven senatorial candidates to end the 2007 mid-term elections due to the town massacre, he Maguindanao, said it is time to do away with the "culture of violence" that has entered to serve as co-petitioner and provide complainants with logistical support should the case reach the Supreme Court.

Ali Macabalong, ARMM information officer said the Senate version "is the best we can get." He says only "this issue can be the beginning of a continuing battle among legal experts," and former Cotabato City judge Abdul Fadia said Muslim lawyers will certainly contest the postponement of the law "on the question of constitutionality" and expressed the fear that political opposition to President Aquino in the ARMM "could open the floodgates to political opportunism" instead of bringing about reforms.

Magindanao Rep. Didagen Dilangalen, who also opposed the bill in the House, said he would join the Muslim lawyers who would question the

Fr. Joaquin G. Bernas, S.J.

OLDER PEOPLE in Manila can remember the scenes that lined Taft Avenue before the one and elevated train took over. They can remember if they are somewhat older, the endless lines that through his Ana, sixth bells, including guards like those of the cavalry mounted. Among those who lined up Roberto Ebrahe, remember the Pasig River when you could see close to the canal bottom and could swim with schools of colorful fish. Bebe Cesar, for instance, is living in Bonanza Woods, nestled in the hills of Cainta. He remembers "the days when I used to ride the streetcar that connected us to the Pasig." Those streetcars are called *cuarros* and are said to have in fact more than. "Quiapo was a rendezvous area for students to engage in games," Cesar says with us. Blue Ribbon cruise had similar scenes.

Let's talk about the days before they committed themselves uncritically to the automobile and to the flyovers, underpasses, tunnels, superhighways and parking lots the automobile demands. There were problems back then, but there were also quaint, picturesque scenes that were commonplace in their lives. Elsa, still remembers Taft Avenue as it is now in Quiapo. Our passion for the car was to the end that we have been a huge and costly mistake.

Manila now, after having spent billions of bucks, seven years and counting, is experiencing serious traffic jams still clogged with traffic. In addition to traffic jams, the automobile has proven to be the No. 1 cause of pollution in Manila and other urban cities.

Bangkok has done everything possible to accommodate the car. It has constructed elevated superhighways for their system in order to cater to the needs of the car. In Bangkok it isn't rich people who own cars. Middle class people own cars. Even those who are relatively poor have cars. Because of the car, they have to live in the outer suburbs. They have to spend hours in traffic jams.

People in the Philippines should not, therefore, follow. Would not be better off today if the government had improved railways and developed into cities livable and education systems over the past years instead of building all those flyovers, etc.? Would it not be better today if we had enough for everyone. Our children would be among Asia's richest and healthiest.

Is there an alternative to cars? People who can go to the streets and they should be able to find one. But the alternative supposes that we transform what we are thinking, that is only a start. Thomas Jefferson experimented with hundreds of materials before he found the proper thickness for his chosen light. It's important to note discarding materials before he found the proper thickness for his chosen light. It's important to note discarding solutions. If we discuss and search diligently, a solution will be found. Remember Edison's famous "Field of Dreams" with Kevin Costner, and the heavenly voice that said, "Build the field and they [the old players] will come." If we search for a good alternative, we have a very good chance of finding it.

The alternative begins by limiting the number of car owners to 25,000 instead of the hundreds of thousands who now have cars. This relatively small number will include car business, political and cultural elite. It is cartel, perhaps, but if we want to solve the problem of traffic jams, there will be no progress. These 25,000 persons are able to buy cars or limit car use. If they are relatively affected, like they have limited wages, land reform legislation, urban poor housing and other legislation, they can afford the cost. But if the 25,000 are not affected, but are able to buy their cars and have new vehicles, there would be no

COMMENTARY

Bonis Murphy

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Dennis Murphy is a consultant in urban development and transportation. His email address is cpmurphy@aol.com

Jose Rizal and Independence Day

THIS YEAR we mark the sesquicentennial of the birth of our national hero Dr. Jose Rizal as well as the 113th anniversary of the proclamation of Philippine independence by President Emilio Aguinaldo in Kawit, Cavite, in 1898. One of the forgotten of the new republic was to declare Dec. 30 a national holiday in memory of Rizal.

REVELLE

Reminisces J. Fernandez

In a personal note, it is also the 111th birth anniversary of Ricardo Fernandez, my father. Born in Pililla, Rizal, Philippine Normal School and publisher of the Philippines Herald, a leading daily during the early post-War years, ambassador to Israel, Germany, Switzerland and Indonesia, and first Philippine commissioner to Singapore.

In two celebrated Philippine Independence Days, it is virtually impossible not to be reminded of Jose Rizal. It was his literary works, particularly "Noli Me Tangere" and "El Filibusterismo," that awakened the national and political consciousness of our people. He was the inclusive and pre-eminent Filipino who ever lived. Since we shall be observing his 150th birth anniversary this coming June, I shall reserve my more extensive for more on the life and times of our national hero.

In 1896, a number of events took place in the Philippines that would eventually lead to the declaration of independence in June 1898. The first was the August "Cry of Pugad Lawin" led by Bonifacio Supremo against Governor-General Ramon Blanco. Then came the August "Cry of Balintawak" when Emilio Aguinaldo declared the revolution against Spain and country. During the months of continuous operations, Rizal was involved in secret campaign even against counterclaimers, employing many executions and worse. A prominent one's martial was established in Manila with prisoners being executed on a daily basis.

The Spanish community welcomed Polavieja enthusiastically calling on him to destroy "the cancerous of the heart," and "the rebellious" and "corrupt" who had disturbed our age against Spain. The letter hailed him as their liberator. The governor-general responded with a campaign of arrest and execution by firing squad of Jose Rizal on Dec. 30, 1896. (Navarro, Sylvia. "Spaniards: The Story of Andres Bonifacio," p. 321)

In surrounding books, Filipino rebels, well-motivated but poorly trained and marginally armed, fought against Spanish regulars and Filipino auxiliaries. Peace talks were begun and signed with Spain promising democratic reforms and Aguinaldo leaving the country and establishing a government-in-exile in Hong Kong. The state would be interrupted with fighting continuing on a sporadic basis and growing more and more intensified.

In 1898, an international crisis would take place that would bring the struggle to the attention of the outside world. The sinking of the USS Maine in Havana, Cuba, would lead to a declaration of war between Spain and the United States. With the declaration of the Spanish-American War in April 1898, Aguinaldo returned to the Philippines. Before he could arrive in Hong Kong, Commodore George Dewey had already destroyed the Spanish fleet in Manila Bay, but the town of the country was in the hands of Philippine rebel forces.

Without an army, there was not much Dewey could do except to support forces in the Philippines. To expedite rebel fighters, he arranged for a meeting with Emilio Aguinaldo in Hong Kong. In his summary with Aguinaldo, Dewey explained how the United States was a humanitarian nation that had demanded no more to help the Filipinos won their independence." When the Spanish had been defeated, Dewey replied that "the United States would accept immediately recognition the independence of the Philippines guaranteed to a war by the word of honor of Americans, which is more positive, more irrevocable than any written agreement." (Historian Teodoro Kalaw in his book "The Philippine Revolution." The Americans were present to that moment you to defeat the Spanish. To achieve that goal, they sought the help of the Filipinos, including those with pledges that led to foundation in order. Aguinaldo liberated Dewey's rescue by the ought to be out of his mind. Dewey's response to the assumption that he was now a US ally in the struggle against Spain.

By a while American and Filipino military forces completed such rebels the US Navy controlled the sea, while the Philippine rebels forced Spanish forces into a humiliating retreat behind Intramuros walls.

With the United States in the El Nino was a benevolent force assisting their fight for independence. Washington was deep differences President William McKinley, as it were to himself, indicated that "while we are conducting a war and must assume duties, we must keep all we can, when the war is over, we must not leave them."

On June 12, President Emilio Aguinaldo proclaimed the establishment of the first Philippine Republic in Kawit, Cavite. He proudly unfurled the country's own flag, explaining that the banner's red, white and blue colors were a tribute to "the flag of the United States of America as a manifestation of our profound love and admiration that from Thomas the documented protection that is extending to us and will continue to extend to us." (Bradley, James. "The Imperial Cruise." pp. 89-91) That was Aguinaldo's biggest mistake.

With the arrival of US land forces, Americans and Spaniards were isolated in their walled city (now known as Intramuros). On June 16, Aguinaldo presented his friend Manuel Arguelles would proceed to defend and after a little more, the Spanish would surrender. They would raise the white flag and 50 troops would march in. On Aug. 13, the Americans and Spanish "fought" this sham Battle of Manila.

Emilio Aguinaldo had no idea that the US had declared on Filipino rebels who were deemed "intruders," signaling the start of the Philippine-American War.

It would take close to half a century before the country celebrated Independence Day again.

The INQUIRER is a member of the PHILIPPINE PRESS INSTITUTE (The National Association of Philippine Newspapers)

Not about religion

LETTERS

THE SYNCHRONIZATION of ARMM elections with national and local elections is neither beyond religion and region. The idea only was synchronization, as recently approved by Congress, is to effect a decision made by people who are not from the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, not by the people of the region.

Sen. Johnny Ares-Mozo and that "all the 23 senators are Christians and that the Christian majority should not impose something on the Muslim minority."

This administration mentality against Muslims is already gained the surrender of their rights to suffrage and self-determination. They have already achieved, at least, partially their autonomy. We must not reverse that process. We must not accompany the light of the "Arab Spring" of 2011 with the shadow of a cold winter for Muslims."

I beg to disagree. The unanimous desi Filipino Muslims have already been exercising their rights to suffrage and self-determination is claimed by a theoretical device called standing. The two points should not be considered in our sentence. While all qualified voters of the Philippines, regardless of their religion can vote, there is still a long, winding road ahead for the Bangsamoro right to self-determination.

There's why the synchronization of ARMM elections is beyond religion and region.

—HERMAN A. HAYE, HARRY S. CAMPOS, Mohmadhaye@yahoo.com

Filipino families already being destroyed, even before RH bill

PDR pajoot, via Dail

Cardinal Sanchez knew that annulled marriage, which has been approved in Rizal—the country's largest Catholic council—may find acceptance here. Let's deal with that before the civil courts.

According to him, the RH bill is insignificant as far as the world's problems are concerned. On the contrary, overpopulation in many parts of the world, including the Philippines, is a ticking bomb that can trigger social unrest and violence.

On the matter of forced priests, no

have heavy priests now, and not in Nueva Ecija as the cardinal predicts. The Church should shoulder a bigger share in the cost of educating seminarians, instead of relying on benefactors. The cardinal mentioned vocations that threaten, to destroy the Catholic Church, because of priests, while not primarily aimed at destroying the Church, will be exacerbated by the Church's obstinate refusal to accept the fact that the world has indeed changed.

—EPIFANIO G. BARON, 42 Mindanao St., Marikina City

Why follow the flight of the 'Maltese sparrow'?

IN HER June 5 column, Nina Antonio-Davis talks about divorce. She considers us the "Malta one," where a majority of the 16 patrician Catholic purposely avoided divorce.

Nina continues: Pinoy pare-pareho bumboto on yesterday's David asks, "If Malta can bill in step with the rest of the world, why can't the Philippines? And what is so special about our being the last holdout against divorce?"

One can readily say nothing, and just as readily ask, what's so special about "keeping in step with the rest of the world?"

I'm reminded almost my high school days as Tech drawing where we, as PMT cadets, had a parade in review session. Whenever we left the rear were out of step with the entire cadets, my commander would adjust, to keep in step, as fixed pose it.

But aren't we getting too much in what the "rest of the world" does? Does this "principle" always apply? might David have a military background?

The Maltese "experience" to be a sparrow in the scheme of "divorce things." So let's not make a lesson out of it being a "look other" of other nations and let their vacuum on proving arrows is of "totally no regard or consequence, for Nina's sake! They live their lives, we live ours!

When the "rest of the world" thinks has been proven to contain a lot of garbage. "Keep in step"? Iping, don't when it is!

—AIDEN C. ISAACS, Isaac_ac19@yahoo.com

Textbook critic asks: Why late printing, delivery of textbooks?

I READ in the June 9 issue of this inquirer a Department of Education advertisements under "invitation to bid" which stated that "The Bids, Manila Bulletin Publishing Corporation, invitation to bid" for the Supply and Delivery of Textbooks and Teacher's Manuals for English Grades 1 to 6 for Public School Districts nationwide. The invitation date for Printing and Delivery is July to September 2011."

I would like to know why these books are being ordered only now, when classes have begun? May I request, as a private concerned citizen, to see when books (from and) Are they really approved, when an newly approved textbooks previously found to be full of errors?

If given the chance to see these books, I hereby publicly announce that I will undertake to review and evaluate them at no cost and express wholeheartedly to the authors and publishers concerned, the helpful and the material presentations.

—ANTONIO CALIPLIP GO, academic supervisor, Marian School of Quezon City FPC Compound, Novaliches, Quezon City

OSG gave full assistance to DOTC on Naia Terminal 3 issues

TO SEE IT in response to the latest item it cited "Sir Jesus, quit due to lack of Public support." (Inquirer, 5/9/11) The quitter personally "resigns" or writing that part of the recent Secretary Ping de Jesus and undersecretaries Rafael Reinoso, Glicerio Jesus and James Jeans quit their posts at the Department of Transportation and Communications is that the DOTC cannot move forward on issues surrounding the Naia Terminal 3. The source further claimed that "the DOTC had not received any help from the Office of the Solicitor General in resolving the matter."

Please be informed that the OSG, as the DOTC's statutory counsel, has diligently assisted the DOTC in resolving Naia Terminal 3 issues and has consistently pushed for the immediate repair of the Naia Terminal 3 to bring it to world-class standards.

Since the third quarter of last year, the OSG has advised the DOTC on intellectually subject the repair works for Naia Terminal 3 to open and competitive public bidding. The advice to keep the public informed of the progress and avoid confusion with the government's commitment to transparency in public transactions, to prevent the government's interests and to ensure that the government acquires the best solution for the repair removal to the safety and operability of the terminal. (And the concerned authorities heeded our advice to immediately bid out the repair of Naia Terminal 3 at this time. On the May would be dealt on in ways to bring fully functional.

It is hoped that this will clarify any misinformation and, more importantly, assure the public that the government is collectively working toward a resolution of the Naia Terminal 3 issues and that the primordial concern is the public's interest and will be just to all concerned.

—ES. OLIVAREZ, chief of staff, Office of the Solicitor General, 134 Amorsolo St., Legaspi Village, Makati City 1229

Full control

HIGH BLOOD

Leonardo S. Sicat Jr.

WHO else like to know the secrets of the outpourings and above, what makes their blood pressure rise or makes them sit back, content that all's well with their world and with themselves. —Ed

After staying in the ICU for 2 weeks, I was advised by my cardiologist that I was no longer in critical condition for further tests. The result confirmed my worst fears. I needed an urgent quintuple bypass procedure.

There were all my wonderful physicians on the window I felt the height the surgeon of my destiny. I did not even know if I would live another day.

Suddenly, like a bolt of lightning, it struck me that I do not have full control of my life. God does. It took a while for me to realize the wisdom of this seeming truism. God is the one in control.

I foolishly believed that I can rely completely on myself, arrogantly assuming I did not need God to manage my life.

I began to realize the wisdom of the saying, "Let go and let God." When I fervently prayed before my operation that I would accept God's will whatever happens, I felt at peace. I was in God's hands and that was all that mattered. Needless to say God took care of me. I had a successful operation and I am now on my way to recovery.

Another valuable lesson I learned is to live in the present fully. Why worry about the future when the future may not even happen for you?

Our Lord Jesus expressed it better when He said, "I tell you not to worry about your life and what you eat or wear, nor about your body and how you are to clothe it. Your heavenly Father knows you need clothes all. Set your hearts on His kingdom first and on His righteousness and all these things will be given you. So you need not worry about tomorrow will take care of itself."

Each additional day in my life is a gift from God. I must learn to enjoy it and savor it. I must take time to smell the fragrance of flowers and appreciate the golden sun waking up every morning. And I must thank God for all these gifts because He loves me.

Another lesson I learned from this experience arises in my life, is how simply my wife of 33 years really loves me. But then, that is another story.

Leonardo S. Sicat Jr., 68, is a semi-retired administrator of a school in Bulacan City. Pingat ni Dr Sicat.

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Assistant Editor Tony Benjamin

Across the NATION

P-Noy help sought to unclog Rio Grande

COTABATO CITY—A Catholic bishop and Maguindanao officials today called on President Aquino and the central office of the public works department to help unclog the Rio Grande de Mindanao.

A big volume of squash plants have tangled on the columns of major bridges in Amas, Quezon, Midsayap and Datu Saudi that have displaced more than 500,000 persons in the provinces of Maguindanao, North Cotabato and Sultan Kudarat.

Cotabato Archbishop Orlando Quevedo, who chairs the Presidential Task Force on Mindanao River Basin, said Cotabato City is the catch basin of flood waters from rivers in Bukidnon, North Cotabato, Sultan Kudarat and Maguindanao.

Failing on helicopters of the Philippine Air Force, Quevedo and Office of Civil Defense in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao Executive Director Loreto Rino, surveyed on Saturday the Liguasan marshland to view the situation on the ground.

The said huge chunks of water lilies, also known as "water hyacinth," were moving from upstream and were expected to reach Cotabato City and the river mouth any time.

Rubber these huge chunks of water lilies reach the Moro Gulf, they have to pass through several bridges endangering its foundations, according to Rino.

"We need the immediate help of Malacañang on this," Quevedo said.

City Mayor Japal Guiani Jr. has alerted the Department of Public Works and Highways central office but had yet to receive a response.

Government engineers warned the water lilies could cause serious damage to the bridges' structures if not removed promptly.

"We hope the President will find time to help us avert flooding in the city," Guiani said.

Mayor Toto Mastura of Sultan Kudarat, Maguindanao, and the clogged rivers have overflowed, causing the flooding of dozens of barangays in the municipality and in the eastern side of Cotabato City.

Twenty-seven of the city's 37 villages have been under water since Wednesday, displacing more than 20,000 residents.

Police files from the Liguasan Marsh were found downstream into the rivers have and nearby towns by floodwaters spawned by heavy rains since last week.

Evasco said his immediate concern now is how to remove no less than 20,000 tons of water lilies now tangling in the columns of each of the three big bridges in the city.

He said city engineering workers have been helplessly trying to remove the water lilies under these bridges using bamboos and through manual labor. Edwin Fernandez, Inquirer Mindanao

Head of antismoking body kicks the habit

By Jani Arnaiz
Inquirer Visayas

MAASIN CITY—Christopher Pimentel has been a smoker since he was in high school. In 2009, he had to quit when he was appointed head of a group that would enforce this style no smoking ordinance.

"I had to quit because it would be awkward for me to implement healthy initiatives while I was puffing a cigarette," he said. Besides if I continued to smoke, I have to do it 100 meters from the perimeter of the City Hall," said Pimentel, 37.

The city government has been strictly implementing Ordinance No. 2009-054 since November 2009, which bans smoking in public buildings, churches, commercial establishments and stores and in areas within a radius of 100 meters from these facilities.

The penalty ranges from a warning to a fine of P100 to P500 for second and third offenses. Government officials and employees face termination if caught smoking in establishments.

Because of the city's antismoking initiative, Maasin has been named one of the 24 winners of the Empowering Women for Health Red Orchid awards for being a 100 percent tobacco free environment.

The Red Orchid Awards recognizes best practices in empowering the Pharmaceutical Organizations Framework Convention on Tobacco Control Article 8 on the protection from exposure to tobacco smoke.

The standards and requirements of a 100 percent tobacco free environment are strict.

These include the enforcement of tobacco control policies, an information campaign on the hazards of smoking and exposure to secondhand smoke and delivery of devices to stop smoking.

The other awardees are the cities of Davao, Bohol, Koronadal and Legaspi. Two other local government units from Eastern Visayas—Ormoc in Leyte and Borongan in Eastern Samar—were also recognized as recipients of the award. Maasin beat out the four cities in evaluation points.

The municipal ordinance of the antismoking ordinance in Maasin has inspired the Southern Leyte provincial government to pass a similar ordinance on May 30 on the eve of World Tobacco Day.

Like Maasin's version, the provincial ordinance bans smoking in public places, prohibits the sale, distribution and purchase of tobacco products to minors. It also bans tobacco advertisements in cinemas and billboards.

Calapan, too

In the City of Calapan in Oriental Mindoro, the "No Smoking" ordinance will be strictly enforced in public places starting July 1.

Councilor Edel Ilano, author of the ordinance that was enacted in February, said the measure aimed to discourage smoking and protect public health.

He said the legislative intent is not just to reduce lung cancer among the smokers but to protect those who will be affected by secondhand smoke.

"Healthy environment help preserve the environment, too," he added.

The ordinance imposes a smoking ban in major streets in the city such as J.P. Rizal Street and the village of Lalud, Investa Haven, Del Pilar Street, Juan Luna Street, San Agustin Street and Gumaoc Drive.

Under the ordinance, owners of buildings, establishments and heads of offices should put up signs of "no smoking area" and "smoking area" or they would be penalized.

The penalties consist of three days in jail and P1,000 fine for the first offense; five days in jail and P3,000 fine for the second offense; and seven days in jail and a fine of P5,000 for the third offense.

Rodneson Hirsala, Inquirer Southern Luzon

HOMETOWN Snapshot

In Bocaue, Leyte and Hagonoy in Bulacan province—were all as recipients of the award. Maasin beat out the four cities in evaluation points.

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Aguinaldos keep fighting for their original flag

By Vincent Cabreza
Inquirer Northern Luzon

BAGUIO CITY—Emilio Aguinaldo Soriano III spent the early morning of June 12 at 509 City Regalado to watch Team SLU (Saint Louis University) retrieve the 1898 unfurling of the Philippine flag on a soggy muddy up to look like the battle of the Aguinaldo mansion in Kawit, Cavite.

Always spark with a smile, Soriano has been the public face of Baguio's Aguinaldo family, whose members are custodians of the historical flag that Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo hoisted when he declared the country's independence 113 years ago.

Question about the relic's authenticity resurfaced on Sunday, and Soriano again made himself available to the media for interviews which Aguinaldo's youngest daughter (and Soriano's late grandmother) Carolina had bequeathed folded and rushed to the hero's daughter in 1964.

"After a very private family and legal battle [over the original flag] was never an easy choice," Soriano said.

Family rumors beamed Sunday, 44, said his elder sister, lawyer Cristina Soriano Tinkoff, when they allowed the flag's public display in 1998.

"I grew up with the day-of-the-rule reporting and repeating in my head: Keep it safe, keep it a secret," Soriano said.

Soriano said the flag in their custody was Aguinaldo's favorite flag, which the latter put on display in 1949 and later kept into a vault.

Cristina and other sister, Senator Aguinaldo Mehencio, were the heirs favorite children, Soriano said, but politics divided the five Aguinaldo siblings when some of them became affiliated with Manuel Quezon, who defeated Aguinaldo in the 1935 presidential election.

"It was natural for Lolo to seek our someone who would take care of his prized possessions. It was Silvan (Cristina) who kept the flag safe as the hospital, and she was the only child allowed at his deathbed," Soriano said.

"Cristina said her boyfriend, Don Federico Tinkoff, migrated to Baguio in 1969, after Aguinaldo's death and she brought along the flag," Soriano said.

Former Baguio Rep. Honcon Aquino, the family's lawyers said Soriano's father and namesake kept the secret when he studied at SLU.

"I remember my father telling me stories about the flag. But I was young. I didn't understand what the secrecy was all about. Keeping the flag safe and hidden was drilled into us as we grew up," Soriano said.

Soriano and Toledo inherited the flag when Don Federico died in 2000.

Aguinaldo's heirs in Baguio talked to raise money for its upkeep, that has cost the family millions of pesos in expenses.

Sadly, an SLU management and economics graduate, said: "We had to invest in preserving the flag. Nowadays, it takes raising a family just fi. But when it's a look at the flag, you see you have preserving it is the best decision you've made."

Told first the original flag's deterioration is inevitable, Soriano and Toledo recently registered the Aguinaldo Museum here into an interactive facility so the relic can inspire a younger generation of Filipinos.

THIS IS a diorama inside the Aguinaldo Museum in Baguio City, which depicts the day Emilio Aguinaldo was declared president of a newly independent Philippine Republic. The museum notes what is arguably the original Philippine flag that was unfurled when Philippine independence was declared in 1898.

P-Noy urged to shut down geothermal power plant

By Carlo P Gomez
Inquirer Visayas

BACOLOD CITY—Environmentalists and members of the clergy urged President Aquino and other government officials to shut down permanently the operations of the Northern Negros Geothermal Power Plant (NNGPP) in Barangay Malitbog, Bago City.

They also sought the return of Mt. Kanlaon National Park (MKNP) to the people.

The call was made during a press conference at the Bishop's House in Bacolod City on Thursday after Energy Development Corp. (EDC) officials announced on Wednesday that the 90-killowatt NNGPP would stop operations in July for further study of the plant's geothermal resources.

The NNGPP, which sells its generated power to the Iloilo Electric Cooperative (Ileco) at P4.72 per kilowatt hour, has a capacity of 49 megawatts (MW) of power but has only been able to produce 8 MW to 9 MW of geothermal power.

Negros Occidental Gov. Alfredo Marañon Jr. on Thursday said he doubted that the Bago plant could be shut down easily since a huge amount of money had been invested in it.

He said he would look into the claim of section 56, a convenor of the Save Mt. Kanlaon Coalition (SMKC), that EDC had connected the geothermal area through the underground.

Underground drilling

The EDC has built six well pads in the buffer zone 13 meters from the MKNP protected area, which violated the compact to enter into and a half kilometers of the MKNP protected area through underground directional drilling, Guanzon said.

The environmentalist and members of the clergy also called on the President to listen to the voice of Negrenses and halt further environmental abuse and destruction in the Mt. Kanlaon National Park by EDC.

In a position paper, the SMKC said the Negros Occidental and they were appalled that the geothermal project has caused thousands of endangered forest trees, destroyed and fragmented sensitive wild flora and fauna, contaminated with toxic heavy metals and chemicals and permanently altered the landscape and watershed boundaries of the MKNP.

They appealed to the President to order the energy and environment secretaries to put a stop to the operations of the geothermal plant. The two groups also asked the members of Congress, especially those from Negros Occidental, to review or amend Republic Act No. 9514, or the Mt. Kanlaon National Park Law, according to Edwin Bulanday of the SMKC group.

It maintained that the MKNP Law was not a product of a participatory process and is illegal.

They also sought a comprehensive audit of the money spent on the Bago plant while it was under the Philippine National Oil Co.–Energy Development Corp. The EDC is a state-owned company in the Lopez-owned First Gen.

'Freedom Climb' breaks world record

BAGUIO CITY—More than 6,000 children scaled 7079 Philippines mountains during the annual "Freedom Climb," fulfilling a quest to break a world record on Sunday, according to the event's organizers.

Although no official person-to-count had been made, the Philippines became the new record holder for the biggest number of mountain climbers who scaled multiple summits within 24 hours, said Bob Ocaber, president of the Alliance of Filipino Mountaineers (AFM).

AFM began the event in 2009 as part of activities celebrating the country's independence.

The central monitoring team for the climb, which was organized at Mt. Pulag's Ambangeg and around 8,000 people signed up for the trek.

But heavy rain prevented many groups from completing the validation process because bad weather disrupted the transmission of mobile phone signals for the summit tools for text message, calls or email, Ocaber said.

At 3:58 p.m. Sunday, 1,044 people had been documented to have climbed 10 mountains, according to staff members of Mayon Volcano Observatory, who was designated the official adviser by the Guinness World Records.

That figure alone means the country surpassed the record held by the United Kingdom and Ireland, when 600 people climbed 114 mountains three on Sept. 10, 2008.

But reports received by AFM showed that at least 6,709 people had reached the peaks of various mountains, from Mt. Apo in Mindanao to Mt. Apo in Mindoro. On Mt. Apo in Mindanao, the highest peak in the Philippine flag at the peak of three mountains. Darlene Cabrera, Inquirer Northern Luzon

RECORD BREAKING Mountaineers raise the country's flag on top of Mt. Ibu. Some in an effort to break a Guinness world record on Independence Day.

Priest scores Church for 'too much noise' on RH bill

By Marisa Cinco
Inquirer Southern Luzon

LOS BAÑOS, Laguna—Roman Catholic priest and political activist Fr. Robert Reyes expressed his disappointment at the Catholic Church "for making too much noise" on the controversial Reproductive Health (RH) Bill, when he believed it was destruction, maiming and the killing of environmental activists are so much a pressing issue.

Reyes, popularly known as the "running priest," helped launch environmental conservation is an even "more fundamental" concern, citing the population, whether large or small, would benefit nothing hence depleted environment.

Reyes on Wednesday ended the two-day meeting at the office of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in Quezon City to this town for the 10th launch of the Talabenahan (Tilapia pure in Kabuhayahan) Team for the Mountains.

He started with a 90-kilometer run from Quezon City to the first day, stopping over in Alabang, Muntinlupa City, and continued with another 40-km run to Mt. Makiling where he also a 400-km run with motorists.

This time, Reyes was seen with a lightweight bamboo walking stick, handmade by Aquino to the Talabenahan11 were and Mount Makiling.

It was the first time in the many adventure runs in the last 10 years to bring along a walking stick which served a purpose during the uphill trek to Mt. Makiling.

While several bishops oppose running, Reyes said the church does not have to fear prominence stem on the issue as there are "many priests and bishops who are close to raising responsibilities."

Without naming names but insisting that this has happened somewhere in southern Philippines, Reyes said there were cases in which bishops decided on whether to allow mining operations in their area or not.

"Priests not only become Pharisees running campaign give them donations, cars, [and] scenario for them, or provide monthly and hospitalization allowances, debt of gratitude is created. That's even when they don't say if they're pro or anti-[mining]," he said.

Reyes said there is so much things to a sustainable or regulated running. "Look at Mt. Diwalwal. You don't see it but God knows what kind of deaths there're [due to] the diggings under the mountains," he said of the gold-rich mountain in Compostela Valley.

Reyes said he planned to join the Talabenahan 2 nationwide campaign "to encourage people to go to the mountains and discover how beautiful and rich forests are to survival."

Reyes also called for justice for the slain environmentalists by pulling behind bars the masterminds in the killings.

He said the idea of Talibon-chairman first came after the murder of environmentalist and radio icon Dr. Gerardo Ortega in Puerto Princesa City in October).

This was followed by the murder of radio commentator Marlene Esperat who was shot dead at Matabacan City in March and of forest guard Eladio Mallorca in Bay, Laguna, in May.

Reyes said they were doing the run from Wawapunla to town because of the dangers under the mountains," he said of the unlawful activities.

Reyes said he planned to join the Talabenahan 2 nationwide campaign "to encourage people

'Kapampangan painter captures freedom fighters' combat uniforms on canvas

By Tonnee Dreyo
Inquirer Central Luzon

ANGELES CITY—Daniel Dizon does not thing good for the Philippines even if it comes without recognition.

Dizon, 44, has produced paintings that captured on canvas the designs and colors of combat uniforms of Katipuneros, including insurrection colonial troops.

"Memoirs of paintings" is how he calls his works and he, in "in his footsteps."

For the 113th anniversary of the Declaration of Philippine Independence, the Mabalacat

PEOPLE

Dizon's work are how many paintings of the genre he had made in over 20 years. For the exhibit, which runs until July he prepared 60 drawings in oil, watercolor, pencil, and pen-and-ink.

Citation and other senior Jaime Aguinaldo Mehencio, sister the heirs favorite children, Soriano said, but politics divided the five Aguinaldo siblings

Dizon's works are divided into four sets. The first depicts Philippine revolutionaries in their uniforms and firearms from 1896 to 1912. The second set shows Philippine Army soldiers and Philippine Scouts in their uniforms from 1941 to 1942 while the third presents the founder of Angeles City, Don Angel Pamintuan de Miranda, as a military official. The last set displays the executions of United States Army uniforms from 1775 to 1876.

"I made them because these are many things we taught in school, like the fact that the Philippines was taken against Spain was the first successful revolution in Asia," Dizon said.

Living near Fort Stotsenburg, Clark Field (which became Clark Air Base after World War II) and the Philippine Army's Camp Gerardo Gregorio del Pilar in Mabalacat, Pampanga, provided him first hand military uniform issues.

"Live shows" was how he called exhibits.

Dad, according to elder relatives, killed details. They were his paternal grandfather, Lt. Jose Sampedro Dizon; his maternal grandfather, Lt. Alfredo Guzman; and grandfather-in-law Lt. Basilio Bautista Dominguez.

"They loved my patriotism," Dizon said.

His father and brother, Ferdinand Dizon, also remembered as local customers and prepared 29 watercolor paintings.

Pagasa follows Palace lead, adopts 'West Philippine Sea'

By Tarra Quismundo

FOLLOWING President Aquino's lead, the weather bureau has adopted the name "West Philippine Sea" in order to weave known as the South China Sea in its official advisories, amid renewed tensions between the Philippines and China over the disputed Spratly Islands.

Science Undersecretary Graciano Yumul said the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) made this "right move" to avoid confusion among the public.

"Please be informed that from now on, we will use West Philippine Sea to refer to what we used to call South China Sea. The body of water east of the Philippines (Pacific Ocean side) will still be called the Philippine Sea as per published in scientific documents," Yumul said yesterday.

The use of local names for international bodies of water has long been a practice among countries, he said.

For example, the waters between Japan and Korea are known as the East Sea to Koreans and the Japan Sea to the Japanese, he said.

"Recently, the government has been using the name (West Philippine Sea), especially with the Spratlys issue. So that people won't be confused, we will also be using that name," Yumul told the reporters.

"I'm still a fan West Philippine Sea and not South China Sea is the right move," he said.

Malacañang recently dropped the name South China Sea in its public statements and started using the West Philippine Sea to refer to waters off Palawan.

The move was made after Manila protested what it deemed to be a series of Chinese incursions into the Kalayaan Island, a part of the Spratlys claimed by the Philippines.

Asked if Pagasa has officially informed its international counterparts, Yumul said: "Ultimately, what we give advisories, the international community will see the name change. In other countries, this has been done."

Albay gov calls for boycott of 'Made in China' products

ALBAY Gov. Joey Salceda, a political ally of President Aquino, yesterday called on Filipinos to boycott Chinese products as a strong signal against Beijing's "bullying" in overseeing with the Spratly Islands dispute.

"Let us boycott 'Made in China' products. Buy Filipino. Let us hurt them where it counts," Salceda said in his Independence Day speech at the provincial hall in Legazpi City.

By not buying Chinese, he said, "we also protect our children and communities from the pervasive and persistent risks of various types of contamination and poor quality of their products."

In a program held at Oduaranda Park, Salceda explained that with "military provocation" not being considered an option, getting back at China through trade had become the only viable alternative for ordinary Filipinos.

He also conceded that the Philippines would not depend on other countries or on "the shield of mutual defense treaties" in dealing with China's repeated intrusions in Spratlys and the West Palawan Sea.

He dismissed the risk seen as "too costly for a country as raw materials economy territory" but also ... to our dignity as a race and as a nation."

Speaking in response after the speech, Salceda maintained that he was "not against the Chinese people who are here in our country, but I am against (opposed to) China products."

The Philippines posted a $900-million trade deficit with China in 2010. The country imported $7 billion worth of goods from China while dropping a little over $6 billion in exports to China.

Joe Salceda, a former stock market analyst and economic adviser to the previous administration, said the trade deficit may actually be bigger since an estimated $5 billion worth of cheap Chinese goods were being smuggled and sold particularly in Manila's Divisoria market.

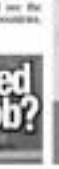
Salceda said boycotting China-made goods would force exporters to seek alternative markets for their products and prompt industries to get their inputs from other sources.

He said China had very little foreign direct investments and still trusts in the country and most of the Filipino workers were deployed in Hong Kong and Macau, not in the Chinese mainland.

"The economic power of a China economy reported are offset by the strategic benefits of national unity and dignity which by themselves are priceless. The risks of a China boycott are reasonable and affordable when compared to the costs to national well-being of other options or of doing nothing," the governor stressed.

"Sure, it will not bring mighty China to its knees but it would make it loud and clear to the imperial mandarins of Beijing that all Filipinos are united in their sentiment. Enough of the bullying that tramples upon our dignity as a nation," he added.

Report by Rene Acosta, Cebu reporter; A. Ismael Mamili, Mar S. Arguelles and Roy Aroot, Inquirer Southern Luzon



Taiwan to deploy missile boats

TAIPEI—Taiwan is planning to deploy missile boats in the South China Sea and tanks on disputed islands as regional tensions mount over territorial differences, a military spokesperson said on Monday.

In Hanoi, about 50 people with Vietnamese flags sang patriotic songs and held signs proclaiming Vietnamese sovereignty over two South China Sea archipelagos which are at the center of a long-running dispute with Beijing.

In Ho Chi Minh City, about 200 people held a similar rally but police sealed off the Chinese Consulate with barbed wire barricades to prevent protesters from approaching, a witness said.

Taiwan's defense ministry said it feared its Coast Guard now stationed in the Spratlys, claimed by several nations, and the Pratas islands, claimed by China, may not be heavily equipped to handle potential conflicts.

"Currently the Coast Guard in the Nansha (Spratlys) and Dongsha (Pratas) are only armed with light weapons," said David Lo, Taiwan's defense ministry spokesperson.

"The missile boats and tanks is an option we're offered to the Coast Guard," Lo said, without specifying numbers and adding that the Coast Guard had yet to make a final decision.

Taiwan's Coast Guard currently has 4 garrisons on Taiping, the biggest island in the Spratlys archipelago, which has a runway to smooth logistical support.

Local media said the presence of the missile boats would serve as a deterrent.

Each of Taiwan's 47-ton Jinpai-class boats is armed with two Hsiungfeng I missiles, a ship-to-ship weapon with a range of 46 kilometers.

Lo's remarks come as China increases its strategic assertion in the potentially resource-rich South China Sea, following several years of relative quiet.

Taiwan on Saturday reiterated its claims to the Spratlys, along with three other island groups in the South China Sea, amid efforts up to regional tensions over rival claims.

In Hanoi, dozens of Vietnamese protested outside the Chinese Embassy for the second weekend in a row on Sunday as a maritime dispute raised tensions between the two communist neighbors. AFP

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FLYING FLAG Students form a human Philippine flag during an Independence Day parade on Rizal Boulevard in Bacolod City.

CLIMB'S CELEBRATION Groups perform during the celebration of Independence Day at Quirino Grandstand in Manila. The long parade of soldiers and policemen capped the event that drew at least 100,000 people.

P-Noy envisions a corruption-free PH

From page A1

area included at the top.

In his speech that was by turns serious and light, he mentioned the reforms his administration had launched to give Filipinos a taste of "true freedom." He lashed out at inequalities in the past administration.

At one point, underlining the urgency of reforms, he referred to the NBA basketball finals' rivalry between the Dallas Mavericks and the Miami Heat.

"Whether you're rooting for Dallas or Miami ... we only have one sentiment as a Filipino: We don't like the situation we're in. There's something better than this, and we want to achieve that."

The crowd broke out in a low hall-lasered laughs.

'True freedom'

Mr. Aquino was the first president in 12 years to preside over Independence Day ceremonies in Kawit. That President Joseph Estrada did the same in 1999, generally in the past, Freedom Day rites had been held at Manila's Rizal Park.

Mr. Aquino cited key reforms he said had been put in place in his 12 months in office to curb corruption and poverty, introduce electoral reforms and boost tourism.

He warned "a new chapter" in Philippine history where justice, quality and dignity would reign.

"All of these we have done to those true freedoms for our countrymen. True freedom is freedom from hunger, ignorance, poverty and lack of jobs. True freedom is freedom with dignity and honor," he said.

He specifically mentioned the approval of the Government-Owned and -Controlled Corporations' (GOCC) Governance Act, the synchronization of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao elections with the May 2013 elections, expansion of the conditional cash transfer program, and the implementation of the "pork-spot-free policy."

It sounded like a preview of his July 25 State of the Nation Address before Congress.

'Sea of lies'

Mr. Aquino acknowledged that the country's promises had heaped on the fight against poverty in their independence day speeches but said the people know why this had not been won.

"As long as the corrupt are not wiped out, the pure will remain in our midst. If we want to live our country, we must live in the open and not ourselves from greed," he said.

Mr. Aquino cited alleged irregularities in a job at the past administration of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

"We make money; they would impose under the table and leave the rest in us to warehouses," he said.

"The greatest would be sunk all with truckloads of money, lost the soldiers who were in the line of fire were shot in holes filled boots. The whole country was made to ride in a paper boat eventually in drowns to a sea of lies and anomalies."

Drowning chaos

Mr. Aquino arrived at the shrine at around 8:30 a.m. and laid a wreath at Aguinaldo's tomb amid a shower of rose petals from two helicopters.

At 7 a.m., he appeared at the balcony with former Prime Minister Cesar Virata, who is an Aguinaldo grandnephew, and Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Eduardo Oban Jr.

In his speech, delivered in Filipino, the President said he would like to believe that all Filipinos agreed that "we had seen reforms" is just a step in the right where "those fighting poverty are themselves the ones causing it."

While he had come under fire over some decisions, Mr. Aquino said he did not mind criticisms as long as his efforts produced results.

"If others think it's a mistake to not have holes even though I'm a bachelor, buy a mosquito net over my own money and stay out of most, that's not a problem with me," he said.

"What's important to me is the result, not earning brownie points, not avoiding brickbats, loss and, most especially, not clinging to power," he added, drawing loud applause and cheers.

Mr. Aquino conceded there was still much to be done to address the lack of classrooms, hospitals and the supply of rice.

Int'l recognition

But he also said the Philippines was gaining international recognition. Proof of this was French's request for assistance on banning products and Costa Rica's invitation for the Philippines to set up businesses there, he said.

"The time to be ashamed in Filipinos is behind us. With our heads held high, we can say we are Filipinos, capable of being helped by our government, capable of helping our country, men and the rest of the world," he said.

The big crowd included war veterans, students, government employees and tourists. It was the biggest in years to attend the Independence Day rites in the country, according to Kawit Mayor Reynaldo Aguinaldo, a grandson of the revolutionary leader.

People waved flags fashioned from cut-up cardboard and paper. Many flags flying on the walls and facades of some stores and residences.

Children too young to appreciate history mingled with grandparents who had seen and lived it.

High school sophomore Irish Mhay Quines, 15, who was on assignment for her school paper, said she was "happy and proud" to be part of the event. She said Independence Day lets her remain enjoying her rights to express her opinion freely.

Palace reception

Albert Kwok, Mr. Aquino host-ed at Malacañang a tea (Filipino for diplomats).

Former President Fidel V. Ramos and lawmakers were present, along with prominent businessmen.

Crowds at various parts of Rizal Park who came to attend the celebration totaled about 150,000, according to police.

Instead of tanks, heavy guns and trainer aircraft depicting the country's modest military firepower, a fleet of yellow-colored electric tricycles rolled past Quirino Grandstand, capping a long parade of soldiers and policemen.

For Mr. Aquino, the parade of over 15 "e-trikes" was a symbol of the country's freedom from the bondage of oil imports, and its commitment to achieve environment.

"When these e-trikes hit the road, it will help curb worsening pollution that destroys our environment and endangers our health," he said to his Rizal Park speech.

He said these e-trike project, part of his Public-Private Partnership program, would put more load on the table of the country's 1.5 million tricycle drivers.

The mini-stage was bedecked with indigenous fruits and vegetables—from green mangoes and bananas, to pineapples and string beans—and fish nets.

The extravaganza that marked previous Independence Day parades at Rizal Park was replaced by a more humble but still festive show, backed off by a 100-member choir from various government agencies clad in brightly colored Filipiniana costumes and singing the national anthem.

Dn the main float of the parade was a statue of a woman in a filipiana native dress holding a dove to symbolize independence.

Elsewhere, more than 100 balloons and activities marked 113 Aquinos of having a DX passport and demanded higher wages.

They attempted to march to the US Embassy, carrying an effigy of Mr. Aquino hanging on a rope held by an image of Uncle Sam on a US aircraft carrier, but were blocked by riot police.

Job fair

The Kalibah Institute included a job fair and colorful cultural dance and musical performances.

Student Jessica Lorraine Cabacung, 23, was one of those who came to the job fair.

"I graduated last year but until now, I am still looking for a job," said Cabacung, who earned the way from Isabela. "I am willing to have a job even if it is not related to my degree."

Other graduates have the same problem.

Lovelyn Grigorio, 28, from Silsan, graduated with a degree in BS Home Technology. The job of a subsidiary runs on the list of positions she wanted to apply for. With reports from Jocelyn R. Ux Mariano, Anne V. Hemeling and AP

Sexting solon takes leave for treatment

From page A1

ted lawmaker to step down.

Rep. Nancy Pelosi, the House Democratic leader, said Weiner "has the love of his family, the confidence of his constituents, and the support, now that he needs help. I urge Congressman Weiner to seek that help without the pressures of being a member of Congress."

Weiner said later that Pelosi had been aware of Weiner's plan to enter treatment when she issued her statement and that her call for a resignation had not changed.

The scandal has dominated US news and distracted attention from efforts by President Barack Obama's Democrats to slam Republicans for proposing deep cuts to Medicare, a popular healthcare program for the elderly.

Short leave

Weiner's spokesperson, Risa Heller, said in the statement that the congressman departed during the morning "to seek professional treatment to help him becoming a better husband and healthier person. In light of that, he will request a short leave of absence from the House of Representatives so that he can get evaluated and map out a course of treatment to make himself well."

The statement did not say where Weiner would receive treatment or what type was involved.

After joining in calls for Weiner to quit was New York Democratic Rep. Steve Israel, chair of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee and a member of the party's leadership.

In an interview, Israel said he had told Weiner in a phone conversation during the day "that I was going to call on him to resign and the other leaders. Obviously he had much more personal and pressing issues that he was addressing."

Pelosi, the former House Speaker, also spoke with Weiner during the day to let him know that she, too, would be joining the calls for his resignation.

Scandal without sex

The developments occurred one day after Weiner acknowledged he had exchanged erotic messages with a 17-year-old girl in the state of Delaware. He said nothing improper had passed between the two of them.

She was three years an allegation that Weiner had a physical relationship with any of the women with whom he maintained virtual relationships.

That made his case a departure from the norm, a sex scandal without sex, a phenomenon of the age of Facebook, Twitter and other social media.

Breaking for days

Democrats said the concerted call for Weiner's resignation had been brewing for days, as more and more Democrats tired of the scandal was interfering with their attempts to gain political momentum in advance of the 2012 elections.

Democrats hope to rebound from a devastating election defeat in November that gave Republicans control of the House.

"We had decided we were not going to have one more week of fanfaring Weiner gate," said one official, who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss internal deliberations.

This official added that Pelosi and Israel had spoken numerous times in the past several days with Weiner, hoping to persuade him to step down for the good of his party and telling him that he increased the media firestorm by prolonging it, their attacks on a Republican. Politicos proposed were largely unnoticed.

The Republicans have prepared major cuts in the government run Medicare program providing healthcare coverage to the elderly.

X-rated photo

Publicly, Pelosi, Israel's and others had been notably reticent in the days since Weiner held a news conference on Monday in announce he had exchanged lewd photos and texts, with a handful of women.

On Thursday an X-rated photo surfaced on a website. In response, Weiner's office issued a statement that did not deny the photo but had been taken of him.

The statement by Weiner's aide did not openly how long a issues of election the congressman would seek.

According to one Democrat aside, leaders are paranoid automatically once a lawmaker resigns over sex, and are more on other type of acquiescence by the House is required.

'Failing apart'

The concerns of Democratic leaders were echoed by those publicly advising Weiner throughout the week, who said they watched him become more agitated and unbelieved as sensational press coverage continued about his graphic interactions with the women on social media.

One friend said it had become absolutely clear that the congressman was no longer in a position to make clear headed decisions about his interests and health.

"He was falling apart," said a longtime friend, who spoke on condition of anonymity to protect the relationship.

Weiner, who prides himself on his dapper appearance and physical fitness, was losing weight and looked drawn and increasingly found it difficult to make it through telephone calls without losing his composure.

'Working hard'

Until he disclosed he was seeking treatment, Weiner had given no indication he was considering anything other than returning to the Capital on Monday when the House resumes from a weeklong break—tuning the prospect of a return like someone who when the news media would attempt to track his whereabouts.

As he was running some personal errands near his home in the New York City borough of Queens on Saturday morning, he said he was looking forward to getting back to work quickly.

"I've made some mistakes. I've acknowledged it. I'm trying to make it up to my wife and my family," Weiner said. "I'm working hard to get back to normal."

As he walked to a neighborhood deli a bystander took a hand of dairy over one arm, he wore an anguished look on his face.

Even so, Weiner fielded questions politely and paused several times to accept well wishes from neighbors and constituents.

'She's doing well'

Asked how his wife was taking the scandal, Weiner said: "She's doing well. She's a remarkable woman."

Weiner is married to Huma Abedin, a top aide to US Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton.

Abedin, who is pregnant with the couple's first child, is traveling with Clinton to Africa until the middle of next week.

She was not in attendance on Monday when Weiner held his news conference, choosing to avoid the stand-by-your-man moment that has become standard in other sex scandals in recent years.

Before Saturday's developments, at least nine Democratic House members and three senators said Weiner should resign. Reports from AP and New York Times News Service

Late SPORTS
Editor Rodolfo S. Melendres
Assistant Editor Francis T. J. Dichoso

Stinson, Gin Kings clobber tired Tigers

By Manong R. Camilla

BALAGTAS: Gimbra scorched a game of a small import in Curtis Stinson last night and the Gin Kings raced on to top the Powerade Tigers, 93-88, in the PBA Governors Cup at the Cuneta Astrodome.

The 6-foot-2 Stinson, the MVP in the NBA's D League last season, pumped in 33 points and missed a triple-double by just a rebound and two assists in a brilliant all-around display of scor play that got the Kings off on the right foot.

"He competes," Gimbra coach Ang Tibfoke said when asked of what he thought of his import.

"He plays defense, posts up and involves his teammates. He's doing the job that he was asked to do."

Fancy he dcamps actually led the Kings with 18 points built around a solid 4-of-14 effort from the field that included two triples, and John Wilmot, Mark Caguioa and JC Intal added in 12 or more as Gimbra was never headed all night.

In the first game, undermanned Gimbra ran rings around powerhouse Petron all game long en route to a 105-100 victory for the tournament's first upset (See story on A11).

The Tigers, who were without leading scorer Gary David, waited big all night despite Chris Porter's 38 points that went with 14 boards. Only rower Ilah Reyes finished in two digits for the local Tigers with 10.

David will be out for at least another week because of a broken bone in his left hand sustained in a friendly with Gimbra more than a week ago. And his absence showed as the Tigers couldn't find another go-to-guy after Porter.

Stinson actually scored just two points in the first two periods but kept the team together the whole time as Gimbra scored 45 points in the first half alone and took a 13-point lead into the third period.

Even without backstopping power forward Rudy Hadfield and with big man Jose Mark playing just 19 minutes, the Kings still were on to outrebound the Tigers, 55-49 to make up for four more turnovers for

POWERLESS Import Chris Porter leads Gimbra's Eric Menk on the loose ballin last night's game at the Cuneta Astrodome.

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DID YOU KNOW

ATTENDED by around a million people in Luneta, the first time that the country celebrated Independence Day on June 12 was in 1962. Originally celebrated on July 4, President Diosdado Macapagal signed a proclamation changing the date to commemorate the Philippine Declaration of Independence held on June 12, 1898 by Filipino revolutionaries under Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo.

Arhani Gerilla, Inquirer Research

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SYMBOL OF FREEDOM

Honor guards hoist aloft the Philippine flag before Sunday's flag-raising ceremonies held at Rizal Park in Manila to commemorate the country's 113th Independence Day. WILSON LEE FLORES

'No CCTV, no permit' policy pushed in QC

By Jayrose T. Garcil

THE QUEZON City government is tapping businessmen in its fight against criminality and in ensuring the city's preparedness for disasters and emergencies.

Mayor Herbert Bautista said in a statement that he had ordered the city's Business Permit and Licensing Office (BPLO) to require business owners to install closed circuit television (CCTV) cameras in their establishments before they could renew their business permits.

According to him, the "no CCTV, no business permit" policy will be implemented in the city starting next year to address crimes like car thefts, holdup-gangs, robberies.

He urged "high-risk" establishments such as car dealerships, convenience stores, gasoline stations and banks to comply with the policy.

At the same time, Bautista said that CCTVs would also be used to monitor flooding to establishments located near riverbanks, creeks and other waterways.

"CCTVs will not only be used as security against lawlessness but also as a safety measure against disasters that might come, particularly during rainy season," he added.

The BPLO will begin inspecting establishments in August to determine if their owners have complied with the law. Should they fail to do so, their business permits would be cancelled.

Assembled and distributed by NISSAN MOTOR PHILIPPINES, INC.

BUST A MOVE
Rustico Mangio, a 46-year-old traffic enforcer assigned to ensure the smooth flow of traffic at a busy intersection in Manila, shows his moves in a series of shots. Mangio says he dances to lighten the mood of motorists caught in heavy traffic. RAMON ESTELLER

'Laguna Lake dev't project to displace 3.9M residents'

By Miko Calleja

TYPHOONS and other disasters like drying Laguna Lake and considered a 200-kilometer dike around it will lead to the eviction of 3.9 million residents from their homes, a militant federation group said yesterday.

According to the Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mamamalakaya ng Pilipinas (Pamalakaya), the figure—which is based on its own data gathering—will include fishermen and boatmen living along the shores of the 90,000-hectare lake.

The group also plus, announced by Laguna Lake Development Authority (LLDA) officials earlier this year, to one of the 54 proposed projects that will involve developing, rehabilitation and reclamation projects in partnership with private organizations and corporations, Fernando Hicap, chair of Pamalakaya said.

"The other big ticket projects include those land development for high-rise condominiums and five-star residences, production of drinking water, flood control structures, excavating up of forty hectarials and (an) ecotourism loop," Hicap said in a statement.

He added that the LLDA was also considering the construction of an international airport which would cover at least 3,000 hectares of the lake area in the cities of Taguig and Muntinlupa.

Hicap said these group was concerned that the LLDA's master plan for the lake's rehabilitation was costly to prevent to the body of water.

"We will all wake up one morning only to find out that the lake...is a Europe redux on Philippine soil," he stated.

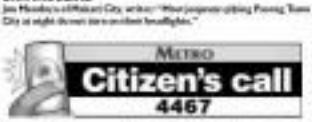
Pamalakaya said funding for the projects designed under the Laguna Lake 2020 development plan would be sourced from the LLDA corporate funds in addition to investments, loans and grants from foreign funding and funding institutions.

LLDA General Manager Rodrigo Cabrera had earlier promised the public that he would help rehabilitate the lake "step by step" and tap private firms in the agency's efforts, considering the lack of government funds to support its major projects.

He claimed that around 300, 000 families would be affected by the proposed project and would consequently have to be relocated.

According to Cabrera, the dike was intended to increase the holding capacity of the lake and thus reduce the possibility of flooding in cities and towns nearby. It would also prevent illegal settlers from encroaching on its shores, he added.

DRIVING BLIND
Jun Mendoza is a Makati City native, unlike "Wise jeepney-piloting Pasay Town (Chino Roces Avenue) in Makati City at night-do not dare to drive headlights." RAMON ESTELLER



Cars take over road

Road users fly is infested at the corner of Macapagal Ave. Roads in Lot Man City Hall of the Boulevard Ave is being used as a parking area by Genco Square tenants. The parked vehicles pose a danger to the safety of residents and pedestrians.
Tereso Aventa, Lot Pilot City

Residents wait in vain

Please call the attention of Quezon City Mayor Herbert Bautista to the perennial flooding on Kilometer Street in Teachers Village. The city engineering office has to recommend the rehabilitation of the entire drainage system to the area to the said administration but despite several letters, nothing happened. We were told that there were no funds for the project but...needed to end at least P7 million. Then Manila Water dug up our street and now the drainage system is totally clogged. As a result, every time it rains, the street is flooded. When Barry Manila you tell by Teresa Aliven. "Today, the flood in our street was waist high. In the meantime, maybe the city government can do something about the drainage system. Please correct these things for us!"
Zhaka Zamora, Quezon City

Smoke-belching bus

I would like to report the smoke-belching a JBK Transit Bus with plate number TVE 841.
Julius Nieves, Quezon City

No room for people

Attention MMDA and Quezon City Hall. If people opening ordinances on Road 8 in Bagong Pagasa, Quezon City is closing all the roads of the sidewalk and street. Pedestrians are forced to walk on the road because they don't use the sidewalk.
Peter Zabala, Quezon City

MMDA asks QC gov't for help in making 'killer highway' safe

By Mike Navalo

IN RESPONSE to a call made by Quezon City councilors, an official of the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) yesterday said that the agency had been finding ways where the stretch of the road to make Commonwealth Avenue in Quezon City safer for both motorists and pedestrians.

In a radio interview, MMDA Assistant General Manager for planning Tino Velasco said that road safety on the busy thoroughfare had been among the foremost concerns of MMDA Chair Francis Tolentino who deemed a safe lane to monitor the situation in the area and implement safety measures.

Velasco, however, acknowledged that the agency's efforts so far were not "step-by-measures" and that what was needed was long-term solutions.

"We hope the local government unit can help us," she added, referring to the Quezon City government.

In January, Tolentino named Task Force Commonwealth to oversee the situation on the so-called "killer highway" a stretch or patrol on the busy thoroughfare because of the high accident rate in the area which had resulted in scores of deaths and injuries.

Velasco explained that the creation of the task force meant that the MMDA was aware of the problem.

Earlier this year, the MMDA also implemented a 60-kph speed limit on Commonwealth Avenue to reduce the incidence of road crash in addition to setting aside two lanes for passenger buses.

In addition, it deployed several traffic enforcers to the area who were equipped with radar speed guns.

But despite all these, accidents continued to occur on the thoroughfare, including one which involved a University of the Philippines professor who was also a veteran journalist.

Lourdes "Lulu" Rivera-Sandoval was killed when the van she was riding in was hit by two speeding buses.

The said prompted the MMDA to re-intensify the implementation of the speed limit on the avenue.

In separate draft city council resolutions, Councilors Rodrick Medalla, Raquel Malanyaon, and Precious Hipolito Castelo urged the officials of the MMDA to install "precautionary measures" to help prevent accidents on the killer highway.

Those measures included the installation of closed circuit television cameras and radar speed guns as well as additional street lamps and reflectorized traffic signs.

Velasco said the MMDA was in favor of the councilors' proposal but the agency lacked the funds to implement it.

She added that they had sent a "wish list" of the equipment they needed for road safety to the Department of Public Works and Highways which would forward it to international funding agencies that would fund its implementation after a needs assessment evaluation.

FLAGS FOR SALE
Tawainese selling flags of various sizes stand at the corner of a busy intersection on Roxas Boulevard in Manila in the hope of making a sale. ARNEL ALCANTARA

QC intersection to be closed to traffic

By Jayvee T. Gumit

MOTORISTS should avoid the Quezon Avenue-G. Araneta Avenue intersection in Quezon City for the next two weeks if they want to avoid getting caught in heavy traffic.

Starting on Wednesday, the busy intersection will partially be closed to vehicles in preparation for the construction of an underpass in the area.

The 900-meter-long, four-lane underpass is part of the C-3/Quezon Avenue Interchange Project and is expected to improve traffic flow in the area.

Alternate routes

The Quezon City government, the Department of Public Works and Highways and the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority, meanwhile, advised motorists passing through the area to take alternate routes during the week.

The agencies assessed, however, did not give a target date for the completion of the project.

Those who will be affected by the rerouting are motorists bound for Quiapo, Manila coming from Edsa in Quezon City.

Also affected are those coming from Espeña Boulevard in Manila and passing through Quezon Avenue on their way to Edsa and those who pass through G. Araneta Avenue on their way either to Sta. Mesa in Manila or Quezon City.

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Based on the Global Competitiveness Index (GCI), the Philippines ranks 87th among 131 countries due to, among others, the reliance on remittances from overseas Filipinos and an import-export imbalance. Also, the Philippines is still in the first stage of development, relying primarily on unskilled labor and natural resources.

Critical Factors for Development

When the Japanese economy surged ahead of the Philippines in the '60s, its growth was impelled by its direction into science and technology (S&T), which makes up 70% of its economic development, compared to only 40% for the Philippines.

This validates a study by the Commission on Growth and Development that countries which rose from the ashes of World War II did so through massive investments in innovation and technology. It cites: "Growth requires engagement with the global economy to import knowledge and technology, to access markets, and to generate a strong export sector."

PhilDev's Mission: A Globally Competitive Philippines

Recognizing this imperative, the Philippine Development Foundation (PhilDev), formerly the Ayala Foundation USA (AF-USA), will launch its "flagship program" called PhilDevSTAND. This is a strategic, long-term technology development program with the aim of alleviating poverty in the Philippines through innovation and entrepreneurship to create high value jobs to produce goods and services for the global markets. It will require much planning, expertise, and financial resources. But PhilDev believes it can be done.

For PhilDev Chairman Diosdado Banatao, we must invest in higher education, especially in the sciences and instill the spirit of entrepreneurship in Filipinos, especially the youth.

"The world's most advanced economies have gone beyond agriculture by developing and employing the best technologies," he said in a recently published interview. "To advance economically, the Philippines must be capable of creating globally competitive technologies and products. The government must emphasize better education in math and sciences, and must invest in technology."

Banatao himself helped develop the first single-chip, 16-bit microprocessor-based calculator (while at Commodore in 1976) and a whole host of cutting-edge technologies. For his achievements, he has been included in Forbes' Midas list and was awarded Master Entrepreneur of the Year by Ernst & Young, Inc. Magazine and Merrill Lynch Business Financial in 1997.

Banatao and PhilDev's vision is for the Philippines to realize its potential for high growth. PhilDev will work closely with the Philippine government, engaging in public-private partnerships (PPPs) and programs, collaborating with private industry for research and development and with the academe to enhance the curriculum to produce globally-qualified scientists and engineers, creating an eco-system that will improve the country's sustainable economic development.

President Benigno S. Aquino III at PhilDev gala in San Jose, CA.

The PhilDev Forum

The first PhilDev Forum held in San Jose, California, in September 2010 was attended by scientists and engineers from all over the US. That evening, President Benigno S. Aquino III endorsed PhilDev's initiatives to "fortify the Philippines' science and engineering sector as a catalyst for economic growth. "The improvement of teaching of science and math in basic education," he said, "is critical to our success as a nation if we are to compete in the global marketplace."

The President has been invited to keynote the second PhilDev Forum in Manila on June 14 at InterContinental Manila with the theme "Innovation and Entrepreneurship for a Globally Competitive Philippines".

A multi-sectoral alliance will also be launched as the vehicle that will strategize, prioritize, and propel strategic programs to encourage innovations in S&T. This initiative, says Banatao, "can spell the difference between our slow and unsustainable growth, and a more dynamic and robust economy able to serve the needs of the global marketplace, thereby creating more jobs in the country."

While PhilDev will act as catalyst, convenor, and strategist, PhilDevSTAND will need the commitment and support of a broad base of partners from government, the private sector, the academic community, and the Filipino diaspora towards applying long-term solutions in education and business to achieve global competitiveness. By bringing all these sectors together to achieve coherence and synergy, PhilDev is confident that the Philippines can finally take its place among the developed nations of the world.

Please visit www.phildev.org for more information on the forum and PhilDev.

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Japanese protest use of nuke power

TOKYO—Shouting dozens and waving flowers, protesters in Tokyo and other major cities rallied against the use of nuclear power on Saturday, three months after a devastating tsunami set off a nuclear crisis.

Anger over the government's handling of the accident at the Fukushima nuclear plant has erupted in recent weeks after newspapers that the damage at the plant, and the release of radioactivity needed, were far worse than previously thought. Mother warned for their children's health, as well as farmers and fishermen angry about their damaged livelihoods, have been especially critical of the government of Prime Minister Naoto Kan.

The disaster has also prompted a national debate about Japan's heavy reliance on nuclear power despite the country's history of devastating earthquakes and a deep public distrust of the nuclear industry.

In perhaps his role move that has seen popular support, Kan ordered the shutdown of a separate nuclear power plant in central Japan until it can bolster its tsunami defenses. But recent conflicting reports published Parliament has added to the public's dissatisfaction.

"We now know the dangers of relying on nuclear power, and it's time to make a change," Akiko Matsumoto, one of the rally's organizers, told a crowd at a central Tokyo square that eventually grew to about 20,000 people, according to organizers' estimates.

"And, yes, I believe Japan can change," he shouted, as the crowd waved both and people pumped their fists in the air.

Supporters of the rally lives in Tokyo and in southwestern cities in many other cities in Japan, as the demonstrations were rotated, this not because of its size, but because it happened at all in a country that so values conformity and calm.

"The Japanese haven't been big protesters, at least recently," said Jamie Sato, program director of the environmentalist group Greenpeace Japan, who said he had organized seemingly poorly attended rallies himself. "But by taking the first steps toward making them acknowledged."

Many in the crowd said they were protesting for the first time.

"I'm here for my children," said Aki Ishii, who had her 3-year-old daughter in tow. "We just want our old life back, where the water is safe and the air is clean," her daughter wore a sign that said "Please let me play outside again."

Shoyoma Fujimori, a city and regional lawyer, said it was his first protest, too. "I want to tell people that we can do anything about the soil, about the water," he said. "I now think with a bigger country in our hand, any tasks in the office."

"It's insane," he added.

Ishii said the rally started in a typically orderly way—"Let's all remember good manners!" organizers said at the start, as protesters lined up in neat rows —the crowd eventually took a more rowdy turn.

As protesters congregated in a Tokyo square after several speeches through the city. Once were some confrontations with the police. A police officer who refused to give his name explained hastily, firmly that protesters had not been given permission to congregate in the square.

"Disperse immediately!" police officers shouted through megaphones.

"Shut up and go away!" a young man screamed back.

About 9 p.m., however, police officers forcibly moved in to break up the crowd. There was some pushing and shoving, but no serious injuries.

Still, Matsumoto, the organizers looked elated. "Who would have thought so many people would turn out?" he said. "I think that Japan is on the way of something new."

AP/YAN

WorldBriefs

May was grim milestone for Afghan civilians

KABUL, Afghanistan—May was the deadliest month for Afghan civilians since the United Nations started tracking deaths in 2007, according to a new report. The carnage continued, with records killing 21 people nationwide—including a family on a religious pilgrimage and a child killed by a suicide attacker crashing on an ensure cart. Violence has been on the rise as the Taliban and other insurgents try to reassume who's best in the fall and summer to the U.S. and NATO troops. Afghanistan's war. The new peak have dropped up suicide attacks and roadside bombs that are more likely in afternoon hours. The UN said insurgents were responsible for 62 percent of the 368 civilians killed last month, with homemade bombs the leading cause of death. The international alliance and Afghan security forces were responsible for 12 percent of the deaths while 10 percent were unattributable. The remainder were caught in the crossfire. It also said 103 children were wounded last month.

AP

India yoga guru ends anti-graft fast

NEW DELHI—Popular yoga guru Baba Ramdev on Sunday called off his eight-day-old hunger strike to denounce corruption after a government spiritual figure persuaded him to end his protest. Hindu spiritual figure persuaded him to end his protest. Ramdev had demanded that the government crack down on illegal money stashed overseas and ban gay to disperse a hunger strike to him until his followers in New Delhi. The crackdown was condemned by opposition parties on the left and right. Ramdev, who travels by private jet and boasts a multi-million dollar business empire, was admitted to hospital after suffering from acute pulmonary and dehydration. His condition prompted concern from both his followers and government officials. Ramdev's aides, Balakrishna, told local media the yoga guru had called off the fast but would carry on with his campaign. Traditional anger over corruption has escalated as the government has become involved in a series of scandals, including between Browning his black-Lugar (that may have cost the treasury up to $28 billion).

Reuters

RAMDEV

Gadhafi forces shell rebels near Misrata

CAIRO—Forces loyal to Moammar Gadhafi intensified their shelling of rebel positions near the city of Misrata, a rebel spokesperson said on Saturday, and many reports suggested that rebel pro-Gadhafi troops were on the move as noted the Security Council held City of Libya's pull-out of Tripoli. The regime's spokesperson accused rebels of the fighting in eastern Libya as near Tripoli. Rebels from Misrata have been trying to push toward Tripoli from the east, and opposition fighters operating in the Nafusa Mountains west Tunisia have been trying to operate the capital from the west. Neither group has conquered much ground. Rebels claim that a recent escalation of Nato air strikes is air destroying warnings in particular many around Tripoli, and western the capital. "Those reports could not be confirmed."

Voice Of America (News) Service

Chavez recovers after surgery in Cuba

CARACAS — Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez was recovering satisfactorily on Sunday after undergoing surgery in Cuba and was expected to return home "in the coming days," officials from the presidential entourage said. But television minister Miraida Andrecuta Lo, who made the announcement Saturday, denied reports from some days that 56-year-old president could remain in Cuba. Hospitalization an operation to remove an abscess in his pelvic area and colon tumor last Friday.

AFP

Blasts kill 34 in Pakistan as CIA chief visits

PESHAWAR, Pakistan— Two explosions outside of minutes apart in the northwest Pakistani city of Peshawar, killing 34 people and injuring more than 100 in one of the deadliest attacks since the US raid that killed Osama bin Laden last month, officials said.

The blasts, one of which was caused by a suicide bomber, occurred on Sunday just after midnight in an area of the city that is home to political officers and army barracks.

The attack took place as CIA Director Leon Panetta and Afghan President Hamid Karzai visited Islamabad, 200 km to the east, to speak separately with senior Pakistani officials about intelligence sharing and efforts to reconcile with the Taliban.

The first explosion was relatively small and drew police and rescue workers to the site, said Dost Mohammad, a senior local police official. A large explosion rocked the area a few minutes later, causing the little house and surrounding 100 people. At currently said Rehma Jan, a senior doctor at a local hospital.

Bin second blast was caused by a suicide bomber riding a motorcycle packed with 3.0 kg of explosives, said Riaz Khan, a senior police official. The source of the first explosion was unknown.

No group claimed responsibility, but the Pakistani Taliban have pledged to carry out attacks in retaliation for the recent US Navy SEAL raid that killed Bin Laden in an army town outside Islamabad on May 2.

Sunday's attack took place across the street from the office of the top political leader in Khyber, part of Pakistan's volatile tribal region, and only about 100 yards from many housing units. Politicians from Awan, the tribal region and have been reportedly hit by bombings over the past few years.

The dead included at least one journalist, said Mohammad Hassan, a hospital doctor. Another from journalists and at least 10 police were injured, he said. Many of the people killed were in fairly humble their were difficult to identify.

The bombings followed a second day of meetings between Panetta, the CIA chief, and senior Pakistani officials. The talks were aimed to focus on the size and scope of US intelligence activities in the wake of the raid that killed Bin Laden, and of Pakistani official, speaking on conditions of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the issue.

The bin Laden operation plunged an already strained relationship between the CIA and Pakistan's main intelligence agency, the ISI, to new lows and threatened to unravel a joint counterterrorism campaign that is key to the US fight against al-Qaeda and Taliban militants holding foreign hostages in Afghanistan.

The US also needs Pakistan's help to promote and guide negotiations with the Taliban that can help end the decade-long Afghan war. Pakistan and Afghanistan are supposed to have joint peace commission on Saturday during a visit by Karzai, the Afghan president.

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SECOND OPEN LETTER TO OUR FILIPINO PRESIDENT

Few months ago, the Filipino Inventors Society (FIS) made an open letter to you, our dear President, and we sought for your intervention to save the local fire truck industry from the hands of few officers in your administration who wish to favor foreign manufacturers and suppliers at the expense of our local entrepreneurs and in great departure of existing laws and government guidelines. Sadly, our concern was not positively addressed; thus, the local fire truck industry, evening of government support, became very vulnerable.

Still hopeful, FIS is constrained to go public once again in order to protect the interest of Filipino entrepreneurs in general and a Filipino inventor in particular relative to the forthcoming procurement of fire trucks by the Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP) under a new set of technical specifications which was duly approved by the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG). This time, however, FIS will reveal material and alarming facts surrounding the issuance and approval of a new technical requirement apparently designed to exclude local manufacturers from participating in the forthcoming procurement program of BFP.

This started when DILG, through Secretary Jesse Robredo, directed a halt in the procurement of locally made fire trucks and this caught news mileage. It was depicted that these fire trucks, which were procured by BFP from 2000 until 2009, particularly those manufactured by Area Research Manufacturing (ARM) and which were equipped with fire pumps driven by separate engines, are allegedly expensive and allegedly displayed poor performance. With this in hack, DILG, without consultation to all stakeholders, approved a new specification requiring power take off (PTO) type of fire trucks for BFP's 2010 and 2011 procurement. DILG did this believing that fire trucks of this kind are available only from foreign source and that this will deprive local manufacturers from participating in the procurement race. FIS solemnly that this kind of action of DILG is unfair, unreasonable and has contravened statutes, rules policies, and jurisprudence. It can eventually hurt the local economy and can be construed as anti-Filipino.

In the name of transparency, the public must be informed that ARM is being wrongfully accused. Its fire trucks have accidentally complied with the technical specifications of BFP, and its price is reasonable and above board. The public has the right to know further that the shift to a PTO system is illegal and is purposely sought to bar ARM from participating in the procurement program of BFP. The public has the right to know finally that there is an avowed hatred for ARM in this new PTO requirement. The succeeding discussions shall point to these contentions.

ARM is Being Unjustly Accused and Its Fire Trucks Have Consistently Complied With The Technical Specifications Of BFP. – The 2000-2009 fire trucks technical specifications canvassed from BFP and ARM severally complied, manufactured and delivered fire trucks to BFP in accordance thereto. If DILG believes that a stronger specifications or an increased efficiency is needed, then the same should not be faulted upon ARM, a compliant manufacturer. DILG should simply prescribe specifications requiring increased output capacity or efficiency for participants to comply. There is no basis to require, instead, a specific type of fire truck, like a PTO type, which bars other types of fire trucks, especially those of local origin, when the desired increased capacity or efficiency can be sufficiently complied by the local fire truck players. **It is stressed that a PTO type of fire truck requirement violates the procurement principle that the requirement must be "generic" in nature.**

The BFP technical specifications from 2006 to 2009 was a product of a thorough study with full consultation to all stakeholders. It was carefully and responsively crafted purposely under the conditions and taking into primordial consideration the needs of the Filipinos and the circumstances of fire incidents in the country, including concerns regarding warranty as well as after sales service and spare parts availability. This is evident from the 2010 and 2011 technical specifications which call for imported PTO fire trucks and which are manufactured by foreigners bearing in mind the conditions in foreign countries. Even ever approved the specifications of PTO fire trucks knowing that there is no certified PTO technician in the Philippines. Available data also show that the current unserviceable fire trucks of BFP are imported PTO ones arising from problems in the enforcement of warranty, after sales service and spare parts availability.

What is most frustrating is that the accusation that the local fire trucks displayed poor performance is nothing but a smear campaign to besmirch the reputation of ARM with an end view of barring it from subsequent procurement programs. FIS has repeatedly sent invitations to Secretary Robredo for plant inspection and testing of ARM's fire trucks to set the record straight and in line with ARM's after sales service warranty. This was patronized by some government officials as a positive and coordinated approach to address the issue. It is truly unfortunate that the invitations were not favorably acted upon, and instead, naked accusations were thrown against ARM in the media. This ought not to be the case.

The Shift To A PTO System Is Purposely Sought To Bar ARM. – The truth of the matter is that ARM, which was founded by the late Alfredo Moreno Arms, Sr., a renowned Filipino inventor and an internationally acclaimed and multi-awarded icon, who was awarded two gold medals by the World Intellectual Property Organization based in Geneva, Switzerland, enjoys several intellectual property rights protected by laws, specifically, **R.A. No. 8293** otherwise known as **"The Intellectual Property Code of the Philippines"** and **R.A. No. 7459** otherwise known as **"The Inventors and Invention Incentives Act of the Philippines"**. At present, ARM, a bonafide manufacturer enjoys **3 Fire Truck Industrial Designs, 11 Fire Truck Utility Model Designs, 2 Fire Truck Copyrights, and 2 Trademarks** under its belt. Accordingly, it has legitimately entered into direct contracting mode of procurement with the BFP and several LGUs and continuously extends lifetime free service warranty for its fire pumps. It has also a reputable and unparalled track record in the local fire truck industry with 2 manufacturing plants and more than 100 service centers all over the country. In the latest competitive bidding conducted by BFP with an ABC of over six hundred million pesos sometime in the last quarter of 2009, it was only ARM which could meet the requirements setforth by BFP. The only way to bar ARM from the procurement race is to specifically require imported PTO fire trucks by first discrediting the local fire trucks which the BFP had procured from ARM since 2006. This is what is happening.

To Specifically Require Imported PTO Fire Trucks Is Illegal. – PTO type of fire trucks are all imported and to have imported PTO fire trucks over local fire trucks is in direct contravention of our laws, government issuances and jurisprudence. These laws and government issuances include:

(1) **Republic Act No. 9184 or "The Government Procurement Reform Act of 2003"**;

(2) **Commonwealth Act No. 138 or "The Flag Law"**;

(3) The Annual **"General Appropriations Act"**;

(4) **R.A. No. 8293 or "The Intellectual Property Code of the Philippines"**;

(5) **R.A. No. 7459 or "The Inventors and Invention Incentives Act of the Philippines"**;

(6) **Article II Section 15, Article XII Section 12, Article XIV Section 10, and Article XIV Section 13 of "The 1987 Constitution"**;

(7) **Book VI, Section 78 of "The Revised Administrative Code of The Philippines"**;

(8) **Section 1 of "Administrative Order No. 237"** dated May 27, 2008.

This was also made clear by the Honorable Supreme Court in **Manila Prince Hotel versus GSIS, et. al., G.R. No. 122156, February 3, 1997**, when the **"Filipino First Policy"** was highlighted and where it was ruled that:

> "Adhering to the doctrine of constitutional supremacy, the constitutional provision giving preferential treatment to Filipinos is, as it should be, implicitly written in the bidding rules, lest the bidding rules be nullified for being violative of the Constitution."

To put emphasis to it and to avoid the requirement for PTO imported fire trucks, even Secretary Robredo has previously issued a Memorandum to the BFP dated 17 February 2011 to the effect that DILG will utilize the fire code collection fees for the immediate purchase of **LOCAL** fire trucks. Secretary Robredo reiterated in this Memorandum the decision of the National Economic and Development Authority about the directive to procure fire trucks of local origin.

In other countries, their leaders are very proud and very supportive of their local inventions and local products. Their thrust is always to protect their local entrepreneurs. In terms of laws and regulations, this is also true in our country. The problem, as usual, is implementation, which is the duty of the executive branch.

The Story Behind The Shift To PTO Type. – The Committee on Public Order & Safety of the 14th Congress is currently conducting an investigation regarding the shift to PTO type of fire trucks. It was revealed during the May 25, 2011 committee hearing that sometime in late 2009 a foreign manufacturer from Thailand, through its Filipino representative, made a formal invitation to DILG to visit its office in Thailand to showcase its fire trucks. This was not acted upon by DILG as it is prohibited by R.A. No. 9184. Thereafter, key officers of BFP's Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) then requested for travel to Thailand to visit said manufacturer. This was denied by DILG as it is again prohibited by R.A. No. 9184 since there was no contract entered into with this manufacturer and this could be considered a collusion punishable by law. Persistent to go to Thailand, said BAC officers requested for leave of absence to travel to Thailand in their personal capacity. With them in the same flight to Thailand sometime in January 2010 was the Filipino representative of the foreign manufacturer. The BAC officers then visited the fire stations of the foreign manufacturer in Thailand. While there, again is the Filipino representative of the foreign manufacturer. After the return of the BAC officers to the Philippines, BFP suddenly endorsed the PTO system in all its subsequent fire truck procurements. This was duly approved by Secretary Robredo who was very vocal in his stand of acquiring imported fire trucks.

Quite oddly, it was also revealed during the committee hearing that the primary purpose why the PTO system was adopted is allegedly to address fire alarms in high rise buildings, which allegedly consist 25% of the total fire incidents in the country. However, over 70% of BFP's serviceable fire trucks are already PTO driven. To allocate BFP's 2010 and 2011 fire truck procurement to the PTO type is no longer consistent with the primary purpose. This is not to mention that the forthcoming procurement is intended for far-flung municipalities which have no fire trucks, and these municipalities do not have high rise buildings.

The minutes of the committee hearing alone point to a certain fact that the shift to a PTO system of fire trucks is tainted with hidden agenda.

ARM's Fire Trucks Price Is Reasonable. – Another unreasonable issue thrown against ARM is that the price of its fire trucks, which was then around 9 million pesos per unit, is allegedly excessive. This is such a good propaganda as it is pleasant to the ears of unwary Filipinos, yet, this tends to unreasonably discredit ARM. For the record, no less than the 14th Congress, specifically the Joint Committees on Good Government & Public Accountability and Public Order and Safety, had rendered Committee Report No. 1070 holding that the price of the fire trucks of ARM is justified and reasonable. Moreover, the BFP through the Procurement Policy Board, has issued BFP-PPB Resolution No. 2011-09, recommending the average price of fire trucks at 12.3 million pesos per unit which is even higher than the price of ARM.

Secretary Robredo is insisting that the average price of fire trucks is 6.1 million pesos per unit. This stand was even imposed upon BFP contrary to the latter's price assessment. As to how this price was arrived at, the same is allegedly based on an unofficial two-briefing canvass of the Office of the Secretary where there were three suppliers which were provided copies of the approved BFP Technical Specifications. This is embedded in the Memorandum of the Office of the DILG to the Vice Chief dated 18 April 2011. This is shocking. Aside from the fact that said price is unofficial, it is also not binding according to the Office of the Secretary. In addition, there are legal issues surrounding the circumstances how this price was obtained considering that approved BFP Technical Specifications were furnished upon a handful of possible bidders only and before formal invitation to the public has made. This is clearly prohibited under R.A. No. 9184. Besides, Secretary Robredo has been insisting, both on paper and through the media, of the approval of the proposed Austrian Government financing of 35 units of brand new Rosenbauer fire trucks, which has an average price of over 15 million pesos per unit. Certainly, Secretary Robredo could not be other-ing to brand new fire trucks when he insisted on the average price of 6.1 million pesos per unit. One logical conclusion is that these 6.1 million pesos per unit fire trucks are reconditioned fire trucks. The government has to be vigilant about this because procurement of reconditioned fire trucks is prohibited. The government must have learned from its 2002 procurement of 86 units of reconditioned imported PTO fire trucks which could not be registered until this very date.

Finally, this price issue can simply be resolved if the good Secretary can just name a supplier who can meet the new specifications with an average price of 6.1 million pesos per unit and who can produce the necessary brand new fire truck for confirmation. We accept this challenge to the good Secretary to name a supplier so the issue can be finally settled and FIS innocently believe from the hazards of speculations.

Our beloved President, we truly hope that you will hear us this time. With our bragging revelations, we earnestly pray that you will exercise prudence and eventually set aside the BFP's forthcoming procurement of imported PTO fire trucks. We implore you to direct BFP and DILG to prescribe and issue acceptable technical specifications and fire truck requirements which provide preference and advantage to our local players in the fire truck industry and to our inventors who have passed the requirements set forth by law.

Maraming Salamat Po At Mabuhay Po Kayo Mahal Naming Pangulo.

Signed: *FIS Board of Directors, Officers and Members*

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Lira Lorena B. Dano

Somalis kill mastermind in attacks on US embassies

NAIROBI, Kenya—Fazul Abdullah Mohammed, al-Qaida's leader in East Africa and the mastermind of the American Embassy bombings in Kenya and Tanzania, was killed in a late-night shootout at a security checkpoint in Mogadishu, Somalia's capital, Somali and US officials said Saturday.

The killing, after Mohammed unidentified unsuccessful a Somali checkpoints, was a major loss for the terrorist network, still reeling from the assassination of its founder, Osama bin Laden, in Pakistan last month.

"Fazul's death is a significant blow to al-Qaida, its successor cells and to operations in East Africa," Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton said. "It is a just end for a terrorist who brought so much death and pain to so many innocents in Nairobi and Dar es Salaam and elsewhere.... Tanzanians, Kenyans, Somalis and our own embassy personnel."

Mohammed, who was one of the most wanted men in Africa and had a $5 million bounty on his head from the US government, and another militant were suddenly drawn up to a checkpoint run by Somali government soldiers late Tuesday night.

The Somali soldiers fired on their truck, a black Toyota 4x4, and the men fled bush, Somali officials said. Succeeded later, Mohammed and the other militant were dead.

Somali officials said that DNA tests carried out in Kenya "by our friends"—suggesting the General Intelligence Agency, which has been working overtly in Somalia for years—confirmed Mohammed's identity on Saturday.

A US official said that the US identified Mohammed's body through DNA analysis. The official would not say what DNA the United States used to compare with the body's.

"This was lucky," a Somali security official said Saturday night. "It wasn't like Fazul was killed during an operation to get him. He was essentially driving around Mogadishu and got lost."

In recent years, US special forces have killed other high-profile al-Qaeda operatives in Somalia, but US officials said Saturday that no Americans were involved, only Somali soldiers.

Mohammed, a master of disguises and several languages, is widely believed to have helped bring al-Qaeda's terrorist network to Somalia, establish bombs and a pipeline of foreign fighters...to Somalia's ethnic enemy and exclusive Islamist insurgency. According to Somali and US officials, he supported bombmaking materials, trained security in the Arab world for the insurgency and maintained a crude measure of hardened—or at least dedicated—foreign fighters from Afghanistan, Pakistan, Chechnya and even the

MOHAMMED
United States

He wore two hats, officials said, as the leader of al-Qaeda's franchise in East Africa and a top field commander for the al-Shabab, the Somali militant group that started as a homegrown insurgency but has steadily drawn closer to al-Qaeda and expanded its ambitions, carrying out a suicide attack in Uganda last summer that killed dozens. The al-Shabab are often referred to as the Somali Taliban, sowing off thieves' hands, shutting schools and even banning any people's cards, saying gold Mirage are un-Islamic.

Sheik Fazul Mohamed Siad, a former Somali insurgent leader who joined the government a few years ago, has called Shabab "ex-expert so-so."

Officials with Somalia's transitional government hope that the killing could be a turning point against the al-Shabab, who once controlled large tracts of the country but recently have been pushed back. In the past few months, African Union peacekeepers and government-allied forces have been taking the offensive, steadily tearing the al-Shabab in several neighborhoods of Mogadishu and some towns in southern Somalia.

Scores of al-Shabab fighters have been killed, including many foreigners, and territories have described a growing dispersion amid al-Shabab ranks, which might explain how the al-Shabab's top field commander could err so fatally as to drive into a hostile armed government checkpoint.

But it was not clear that Mohammed's death on Tuesday had weakened al-Shabab. On Friday, Somalia's interior minister was killed in an explosion at his home in the small north of Mogadishu that the transitional government controls. And the al-Shabab claimed it planted a bomb under the minister's bed. Somali officials said it was a female suicide bomber, possibly the minister's sister, who was a covert al-Shabab agent.

Its succession, perhaps, is the widely dysfunctional state of Somali politics. Just this week, the president and the speaker of Parliament decided to settle a long and bitter feud by firing the prime minister, who was widely considered one of the most professional prime ministers Somalia has had in years. Hundreds of government soldiers rioted in protest, saying the prime minister was the only honest leader in the government.

New York Times News Service

IMF hit by large computer attack

WASHINGTON—The International Monetary Fund, still struggling to find a new leader after the arrest of its managing director last month in New York, was hit recently by what computer experts describe as a large and sophisticated cyber attack whose dimensions are still unknown.

The Fund, which manages financial rules around the world and is the repository of highly confidential information about the fiscal health of many countries, told its staff and its board of directors about the attack on Wednesday. But it has not made a public announcement.

Several senior officials with knowledge of the attack said it was both sophisticated and serious. "This was a very major breach," said one official, who said that it had occurred over the last several months, even before Dominique Strauss-Kahn, the French politician who was the head, was arrested on charges of sexually assaulting a chambermaid in a New York hotel.

Asked about the reports of the computer attack late Friday, a spokesperson for the fund, David Hawley, declined to provide details or talk about the scope or nature of the intrusion. NYTNS

WHAT'S INSIDE

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MERALCO Ling mandes Tenkes (center) drives off Rabah Al-Farouk and Jay Washington of Petron Blaze in last night's game

Meralco shocks Petron Blaze

By Herang R. Castillo

MARK Isip scored 28 points on 19 minutes as Meralco posted the first upset in the season-ending PBA Governors' Cup with a 101-100 decision of unjudy Petron last night at the Cuneta Astrodome.

Isip came off the bench to spearhead the Bolts down the stretch, scoring 10 of his total in the final period as Meralco, which played without its leading local scorer and best point guard, rebounded the Boosters' woes since the last conference when they were known as the San Miguel Beermen.

Import Champ Ogilvie dropped 25 points, 15 of them coming from three-point lines, and Sol Mercado had 23, six rebounds and seven assists as the B-Meg's aired the opening-day winner Rain or Shine in the latter.

"We were definitely underestimated for the game," Meralco coach Ryan Gregorio told reporters shortly after. "But in as much as we are losing players due to injury the game is still 5-on-5 and I told my players that we're not at a disadvantage neither."

Meralco finally moved leading local scorer Mac Cardona, who is nursing a sustained calf, and starting point guard Chris Ross, who is out for at least six months after undergoing surgery on his right knee.

Ross Rosario was the fourth player in twin digits for the B-Meg's, who outrebounded the taller Boosters, 52-48.

Jay Washington and Mel Calimpan led 14 apiece to pace the Boosters, who are coming off six-game losing streak.

Petron, despite its expensive lineup, stalled by 12 several times, the last at 86-87 after one of Isip's baskets early in the fourth period.

Ricky Harris, the Boosters' second-leading scorer, struggled with only eight points in 28 minutes.

Washington and Calimpan rallied the Boosters to within four only to be snuffed in the endgame by person Mendoza's steal-dunking.

Eagles whip Lions, bag FilOil title

By Jasmine N. Paje

WASN'T PAID billed as a thrilling showdown of champions turned into a lopsided affair as Inc. now dismantled San Beda, 75-56, yesterday to capture its first crown in the PBSA-Flying V Hanes Preseason Premier Cup.

Finding their offensive rhythm early, the Blue Eagles got going with a 21-9 blast and stayed safely in front for the rest of the way to the winners' take-all duel at the PBSA Flying V Arena in San Juan.

"This is probably the best game we played the entire summer and we picked the best day to play well—a championship game," said Arenas coach Norman Black. "I don't really know how we were able to beat San Beda in that manner."

But it looked like the 6-foot-11 king Slaughter and Finals MVP Kader Tiamzon figured it out early as the duo worked along with veteran forward Nino Rubio, to dominate the first quarter demolition of the reigning NCAA champion Lions.

"Everything just seemed to click today" said Black whose three-time UAAP champion bagged the P150,000 top reward for the tournament.

"If you look at the scoreboard, we only gave up 56 points, so our defense was pretty solid. And our offense also clicked. We had a pretty high shooting percentage (48 percent)."

San Beda, though, bagged the juniors crown at the Red Cubs division of the Energen Philippine Under-16 event, 78-70.

Red Cub Arvin Tolentino exploded for 25 points and 22 rebounds, while MVP Francis Munzon and Beryl Numerico contributed for 16 each.

Slaughter led the Eagles' charge with 14 points and 11 rebounds and Pinch top pointed Aaron Torquato added 13 points, five boards and two assists.

Ravena had 12 points and four rebounds and Rob Lang knocked in six of his 11 points from three point range.

When the Lions shortened Badrez of their old form to come within five, 49-35, Long found his range to put the Red Cubs in double figures, 54-43, by the end of the third period.

Earlier, the Eastern University downed Adamson, 65-57, to undergo third place in the season division.

Aldrech Ramos had 19 points and nine rebounds and topscored, guards Ali Garcia and Terrence Romeo teamed together 23 to lead the Tamaraws.

Ravena and Garcia also earned spots in the Mythical Team along with San Beda's Garvo Lanete, Red Cubs star Roger 'Yousef' Yuba of Mapua and FEU's Pippo Noundou.

SIGNS OF THINGS TO COME The UAAP title favorite Ateneo Blue Eagles, led by coach Norman Black, gather at center court to savor their first-ever PBSA-Flying V Hanes championship.

Wesley draws with Swede, stays in front

Rain or Shine eyes maiden PBA finals

COACH Yeng Guiao (8th from left, front row) says his players have what it takes to rise to the challenge and gift owners Raymund Yu and Tony Que a first PBA title.

QC five rules Coke Hoopla via a sweep

Ruler on Ice tops at Belmont

RULER On Ice (3) with jockey Jose Valdivia Jr. ...prepares to pass Shouldahurt during the Belmont Stakes race.

Summit-POC tie-up to benefit nat'l athletes

PDC rival Copenaguen and Summit's Malcolm Arnealson the partnership with a handshake.

Lockout provision a TV turn-off

INSIDE SPORTS

Ronnie Nathanielsz

PACIFIC X-TREME COMBAT

Sarmiento averts PH shutout

HAIRED Sarmiento pins down Ken Caoile during their lightweight bout. PHOTO BY JOEY MENDOZA

By Jane Navarro

BAGUIO, MONDAY — Sarmiento saved the day for the host country after a pair of abbreviated losses suffered by homegrown fighters debuting in the Pacific X-Treme Combat 24 Saturday night.

Born in Manila but raised in Hawaii, Sarmiento gave the capacity crowd some thing to cheer about with a unanimous decision win over Guam's Alex Castro in their three-round lightweight bout at the Baguio Convention and Theater of Performing Arts.

Earlier, bantamweight Rogelio Honrado bowed out in the first round and Carlo Tongson was spared from further punishment by the referee with just a minute gone in the second.

Honrado copped one with stiff two-count rises and 11 seconds to go in the opening round after Josh Alvarez of Guam pulled off a choking move that saw the hosting team's Jhon Bacolod (2-2) tap the floor gasping for air.

The featherweight Tongson lost to Guamanian Bobby Camp, who won outlasting fifteen to the brink of his pummel rival when the referee stopped the fight.

Armed with freestyle wrestling skills, Sarmiento engaged Castro in a toe to toe ground battle throughout but adopted a more dominant technique that put the former FBC lightweight champ on the defensive most of the time.

"Fighting him on the ground was part of the strategy. I've been working on it," said the 28-year old Sarmiento, who improved his record to 2-0 with one draw.

Honrado, who suffered his first career setback, absorbed the brunt of the punishment from Alvarez, who also landed a knee to the head of his pinned rival when the referee stopped the fight.

Alvarez (1-0) also scored a unanimous decision win over Ken Caoile in a three-round lightweight bout.

Guam's Alvarez, who remained the victor after two months back after their match ended in a draw, got pinned on his side with 23 seconds to go and Obiat pounded him relentlessly to end the grudge fight.

Obiat raised his record to 12-9-1.

Former IBC star Brandon Wasti appreciate pair of Diego Gaelpa and Rolando Perez also won their matches by unanimous decision, with Gaelpa beating Kenson Ritz Tan-Iyeng and Perez prevailing over 19-year-old Tony Reyes of Guam.

Joe Tuivaegalo pulled off the fastest knockout by disposing off former Ken Young jun-seok with all 1:17 to go in the first.

National five has got to shoot better

ONE GAME AT A TIME

Joe Sarmiento

NEED YOU hop on a plane for a flight from abroad, among the first things you ponder is the scathing material you want to dip into in-between topping, food and deciding with unavoidable turbulence. Movies are fine but a plane isn't exactly the best place to savor them.

On a flight home from South Korea this weekend four enthusiastic study sun (let) hour that kind of summer and has carried me endless teasing from colleagues that live such a journey), I immediately grabbed a copy of the latest Sports Illustrated issue I can lack.

For me, it is still the definitive sports magazine with engaging writing and photographs. If, as it is popularly known, was my childhood storybook simply because my late father had a lifetime subscription.

Last summer while on 36-year-old Jason Bay's struggles to overcome.

The focus was not only on Bay's supporting skills for his age but on his personal struggles to have a reliable outside shot.

There was no doubt about his playmaking skills but his lack of a reliable jumper could put an end to his NBA career.

Bay has, of course, defied all the doubting all and months that, yes, redemption is possible regardless of age.

He has made a major impact in the life of the Dallas Mavericks, and if the Mavs do win the NBA championship, his major contribution was adding a new dimension to his skills.

* * *

This piece triggered reflections on the Philippine men's own basketball woes.

Very quietly seems to need to undergo a rededication if we are indeed to accomplish our position as one of the best in Asian basketball. And outside shooting seems to be one of the skills that we have to invest on.

We really have to get back to the basics of the game and the point of basketball is to score.

Speed and footwork points are fine but if you can't score from the outside, you will never have a chance against bigger opponents.

The great South Korean teams of Shin Dong-pa and Hur Jae were anchored on raining shots outside, and one can only imagine how much dread Jae Shin would have been if there was a rainbow shot in his arsenal.

We also had great outside shooters like Jimmy Alapag, Rego Arboleda, Antonio Pinto, Elias Tolentino, Asi Taulava and others.

Many of our excellent guards and forwards like Danny Florencio and Robert Jaworski didn't only run the break well but could also shoot.

The present generation has a few like James Yap and Dondon Hontiveros but Philippine basketball sure could use a few more.

Ball handling skills and drills are no doubt important but basketball camps and coaches have to go back to the novel to harness the ability to put the ball in the hole from at least 15 feet out on a consistent basis.

For young people, the downside of watching too many NBA highlight reels and playing video basketball is that one ends up thinking that dunks and threes are the only big plays.

Just ask Jimmy Bilal. His career would have shown that everyone very have need a redefinition.

Bautista posts TKO win; 2 other pugs stop rivals

A BLOODY splattered Ray "Baron Boom" Bautista mauls revenge on Mexican Heriberto Ruiz by TKO. PHOTO BY JOEY CAOCAO

By Roy Luarca

CEBU CITY—A bloodied Ray "Baron Boom" Bautista got his revenge over Heriberto Ruiz Saturday night, but was far from satisfied with the technical decision win in the headliner of Pinoy Pride 9: Grudge Skirmish here.

An apologetic Bautista said Ruiz deserved the win after 3,000 fans that packed the Pacific grand ballroom of Oh Waterfront Cebu City Hotel & Casino, of a clean cut victory after the bout was stopped 58 seconds into the seventh of the scheduled 12-rounder.

Bautista emerged with a bloody two-inch cut on his left temple and had a gash on his right eyebrow following a clash of heads earlier, forcing referee Danrex Tapdasan to halt the contest.

Upon examination, ring physician Dr. Jose Cruz Umbac declared the Filipino unfit to continue and Bautista was declared the winner based on the scorecards of the three judges after an even round.

Ringsider 12/3-based Teen Zealander Bruce McTavish and Indonesian Muhammad Rush had Bautista ahead at 69-65, with Filipino Rey Jimenez giving it at 68-65, for the pride of Bohol who crowned himself the International Boxing Federation/International Boxing Association titles.

"I'm willing to fight him till death, but the fight was stopped," said Bautista, who also sustained a two-centimeter cut due to another head butt in the third round. "He did it to me before and even the third (game)."

Where they first fought on Nov. 11, 2006, in Las Vegas, Ruiz also head-butted Bautista and won by unanimous decision.

The 22-year-old Ruiz started strongly, stalking and hunting Bautista to the punch in the first two rounds.

But in the third, with 30 seconds of the third round, Bautista found his range and stunned the Mexican with 1-2 combination.

According to Chad Cameron, media officer of organizer MJA Promotions, Dr. Umbac said he noticed all the fight since Bautista sustained an initial bleeding from a cut in the eyebrow.

Bautista raised his card to 21-2 with 20 knockouts. Ruiz fell to 40-11-1 with 30 KOs.

Earlier, 19-year old contender Jonvic Pagara (27-1, 16 KOs) stopped Juan Carlos Gallegos in the fourth round of their light-welter bout.

Both Bautista and Pagara are stalwarts of MJA Promotions, headed by Michael Aldeguer, and both were last seen in the same fan-haters and longtime boxing patron Antonio.

Another second-placer was Edren Ilagan, nothing of the Bisaya-bat stable of former North Cotabato Gov. Manny Piñol.

Dispatching dudes' Indonesian Benja Loeman with a body blow in the first round and then finished him off with a right uppercut to the jaw and a left hook 20 seconds into the fourth round of their 112-lb tussle.

Muñoz pitches first BP Series no-hitter

By Mars Anthony Reyes

MUNTINLUPA FIRST OLD — Carlos Muñoz threw the first ever no-hitter in the league as he lifted Alabang to a thrilling 1-0 victory over Dasmariñas yesterday in the baseball Philippines Series II at the Ritual Memorial Ballpark.

A college freshman from La Salle who only got to play on weekends, Muñoz struck out 13 batters and allowed one walk in nine innings as the Tigers got back at the Outsiders, who beat them the other day and ended a five-game losing streak in Lipa City.

"Defense was excellent and that helped me out today," said Muñoz after the first ever no-hitter in the league to be

Mavs go for clincher

MIAMI—Here's where all their ups and experiences, heartbreak and disappointment actually benefit Dirk Nowitzki and the Dallas Mavericks.

They've had two days to get ready for Game 6 of the NBA finals—plenty of time to daydream about consummate David Stern handing them the shiny, gold Larry O'Brien Trophy as confetti falls and they pull on hats and T-shirts with the words 2011 NBA Champions.

Yet there surely remains.

They're strictly thinking about what it will take to beat the Miami Heat on Sunday night (Monday morning in Manila), not what will happen if they do.

"I don't allow myself to sit back and relax now," Nowitzki said Saturday. "In those playoffs, one-win-or-one-loss can switch the whole momentum. You don't ever want a snowball to start. I don't allow myself to sit back all of a sudden and be satisfied."

"We're one win away from my dream, what I've worked on for half of my life. This is all I'm focusing on."

Nowitzki isn't giving his version of the "one game at a time" cliché. He's been this way the last few months—the last five years, really—ever since the Mavericks went from being on the verge of taking a 3-0 lead in the 2006 finals to losing in six games.

The Heat wound up watching the Miami Heat celebrate their first championship on Dallas' floor.

Nowitzki and Jason Terry are the only players left from that stab, and the emotional scars from that collapse haven't healed.

They could Sunday night.

Terry said Saturday he'd still been roused by the memory of his off-target jumper that could've sent the '06 finals into overtime.

"Sometimes middle of the night, a lot of times first thing when I wake up in the morning," he said. "Definitely every day when I walk into that gym, into that arena. It's something you live with."

If the Heat win on Sunday, it will be a winner-take-all affair Tuesday in Miami.

"This series is a long way from over," said Dallas guard Jason Kidd. "There's a lot of basketball left. And we're back home. We would rather have it here than anywhere else."

Heat forward LeBron James said he likes his team's chances of winning two in Miami.

"We needed all year to get home court," he told reporters. "We feel like we have a great opportunity with this series coming back to Miami. The games on our home floor."

AP, Reuters

MIAMI most gang up on Dallas main man Dirk Nowitzki (center) to force a Game 5. —AP

Childish, Dirk says of 'spoof'

MIAMI—Dirk Nowitzki says Miami Heat rivals Dwyane Wade and LeBron James were "childish" in producing a video spoofing the Dallas Mavericks star's recent illness.

Wade said he really did laugh and turned it into a generic joke because Jamison were sitting next to James. Mavericks fans for trying to make a big deal out of it.

Nowitzki was coughing throughout Game 4 because of a sinus infection that also left him with a 100-temp.

"I've never faked an injury—or an illness," Nowitzki said. —AP

Editor Raul O. Morales • Assistant Editor Cecile S. Mariano

BUSINESS

Gov't puts Mimosa on auction block

Clark estate seen to be more attractive due to NLEx upgrade

By Doris C. Bureba

THE AQUINO administration is set to hand the 215-hectare Mimosa leisure estate back to the private sector through a public bidding sometime in August.

The sale of the sprawling property in Clark, Pampanga is part of the government's overall strategy to attract private investment and boost tourism in the area.

Already, the team of reformer (TEAM) for the bidding is now being finalized and will be made public no later than July, Bases Conversion Development Authority president Antonio Cassanova told the Inquirer.

Mimosa is being run by the state-controlled Clark Development Corp (CDC). In 1995, CDC regained control of the property from Mimosagan Leisure & Resorts Corp., which failed to pay its rental obligations to the government.

CDC, which maintains the Clark Freeport Zone as a premier investment and business center, is a subsidiary of the BCDA.

"It's a good time to privatize Mimosa as establishment itself is high and the new board and management of CDC are more transparent," Cassanova said in an interview.

The government had tried to monetize off the Mimosa concession many times in the past.

But Cassanova said public bidding would still be the preferred mode over a negotiated sale.

"Hopefully, this could be done by August," he said.

By attracting private investors to contribute to the development of the Mimosa estate, the government hopes to generate business opportunities, jobs and economic activities.

The Mimosa property is also expected to become more attractive to new investors after the North Luzon Expressway has been

(more)

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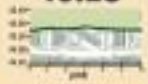

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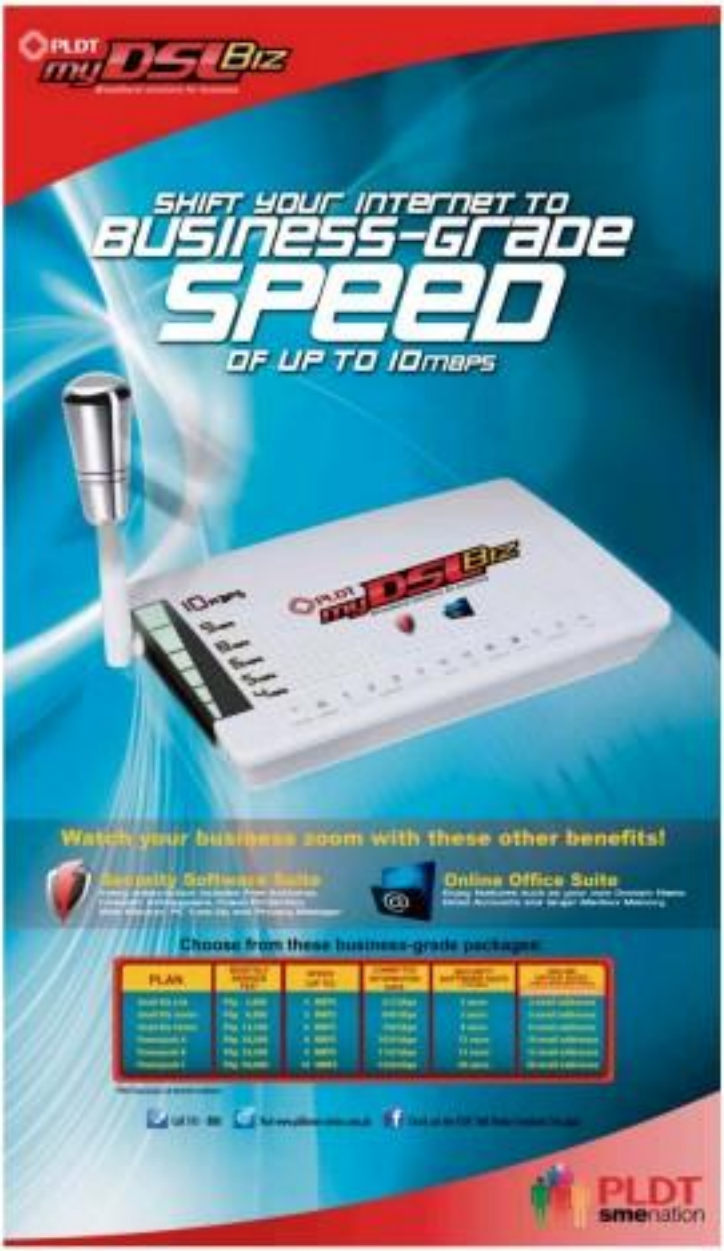

New shooting buddy

NOT ALL government officials get their guns because they are P-Noy's shooting buddies. In fact, some become shooting buddies because they are government officials.

Case in point is Bureau of Internal Revenue Commissioner Kim Henares who recently bestowed having already fired about 400 rounds under the President's tutelage.

According to our sources, the BIR chief recently acquired a competition-grade .40 caliber pistol to better hone her skills when being on top of the Presidential Security Group Firing range in Malacañang.

No less than Henares herself narrated to the President in the NEP firing range in early March, Justice Secretary Leila de Lima.

Henares then boasts another bonding time she had with the President in the NEP range when she's "able to translate the principles" of shooting into early-to-gain concepts for beginners (Yellow eyes, main sense of his notably people, we're told).

After four sessions, Henares has now progressed from shooting at stationary paper targets at the NEP firing range to plinking pop-up targets at the PHTO shooting facility.

To top them who are reading this... you've been warned. — Sander C. Lanes

From defense to offense

PEZA Chom his successful appointment before the Commission on Appointments last March, Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima is eager to go on the offensive against accusations of so-called "slush operations" aimed at derailing his confirmation.

According to our sources, his first salvo will be a letter of complaint addressed to the owners of a broadsheet newspaper which published — not just once, but twice — a story saying Purisima that rumored can solve an outright lie.

Both stories were published almost a month apart but repeated the same claim that Purisima, Customs chief Lito Alvarez and "Undersecretary" Willie Parayno had been "cited by Commissioner Catherine Ongsiako Reyes" before the Ombudsman.

In the complaint letter, DOF lawyers pointed out that the Ombudsman had already issued a certification even before the second article was published that no complaints had been lodged against the officials.

So now that Purisima's confirmed... it's payback time. — Sander C. Lanes

Belated probe

SOME stock brokers recently received "love letters" from the Securities and Exchange Commission seeking explanation for trades on certain publicly listed company from January 2009 to June 2010.

Here for the Filipino People

STANDARD CHARTERED Bank's history is closely tied with that of the nation. Serving client to 140 years, Standard Chartered is the first and oldest international bank in the Philippines. The Bank's roots run deep, especially when seen against the backdrop of Philippine independence. One, the 1,000- brainchild story of which the nation commemorated yesterday.

As a witness to the birth of the nation, Standard Chartered Bank prides itself in having been there for Filipinos through their ups and downs. Long before corporate social responsibility became a buzzword, the Bank has been quietly doing its share to uplift lives not only by helping fund a vibrant national trade and economy but by continuously undertaking community programs.

Financial Literacy among the Youth

A frequently quoted line from the late social patriot entitled by his national hero, Dr. Jose Rizal, entitled A la Juventud Filipina (To the Filipino Youth), points to the youth as "the true hope of Motherland." Dr. Rizal, whose 150th birth anniversary we also commemorate this month, was a valued client of the Bank during his time.

Inspired by our national hero's message, and recognizing the culture of conservation that is now laying siege to the new generation of young Filipinos, Standard Chartered has added to its list of advocacies the promotion of financial literacy among the youth.

Financial literacy is a challenge in the Philippines which ranks among the lowest in Asia in terms of savings-consciousness. With a huge part of the population not knowing the basics, it would be no such burden to instill financial discipline and independence in young people, who will be the leaders of tomorrow, closely tuned an understanding of both in order to stir the nation towards true progress and development.

Thus, the Bank customized a financial literacy module that primarily targets graduating college students and explains to them the concepts of cash flow, responsible credit card use, the value of saving, and starting an investment, among others.

In partnership with universities, Standard Chartered deploys its own employees to conduct trainings on the subject, thereby equipping the aforementioned graduating students with the knowledge and tools they would need to start them right on the path to financial freedom.

AETA School

The Bank has helped finish a school for indigenous Aeta tribe in Bamban, Tarlac, in 2002. Now known as the Standard Chartered AETA School, the building was constructed in coordination with the National Commission on Indigenous People.

The Bank has also since funded repair and rehabilitation efforts to maintain the school building. Employee volunteers have also carried out hygiene briefings and the latest batch count from 300 pupils and their families.

Living with HIV

Standard Chartered Bank has also championed information/dissemination to help combat the spread of HIV and AIDS thru its Living with HIV (LwHIV) Program.

Research has identified HIV as a leading cause of premature death globally among people aged between 15 and 59. Last year, the Department of Health has focused the spotlight on HIV and AIDS, citing the allegedly alarming increase in new cases particularly in the youth sector.

Living with HIV is a workplace education program that makes HIV information available for all staff, including new joiners. In the Philippines however, the Bank has expanded this program to include outreach in colleges and universities, partner companies and marginalized communities where employee volunteers impart their knowledge to correct misconceptions and promote understanding of the disease and the virus that causes it.

Seeing is Believing

Another program of Standard Chartered is Seeing is Believing (SiB), which aims to treat and tackle preventable blindness. Since '05, the Philippines became a beneficiary of Standard Chartered's partnership with Helen Keller International. The Bank had supported a three-year Project on Vitamin A Supplementation for children.

The project aimed to prevent Vitamin A Deficiency (VAD)-associated blindness and child mortality by ensuring high and sustained Vitamin A Supplementation for children.

The Bank also engages in various ways. ATBEC, a computer-related for the visually impaired. This year, a large-scale refractive activity is being planned to provide eye health, as education can substantially mitigate the need for rehabilitation and long-term eye care.

More for Filipinos

The Bank pursues other programs, like micro-planning with the DENR and Bayanihan Rehousing with DepEd. Whatever it is, the ultimate goal has always been to show its commitment to the Philippines, create a difference in the lives of the system, and be a true partner in nation-building.

Biz Buzz
By the staff

It is unclear at this point whether this is the insider trading or ultra-sensitive regulation violations, but theories abound as to why such probe is happening now.

Those include: a) It's part of a month-to-the money trail leading to former Palace occupants, b) it has become politically fashionable to smoke make a probe now that there are new Fabian occupants, or c) it just takes that much time to build up a case, if there's any.

No whatever it's worth, participants are required to keep only five years worth of trading documentations, which means that those of who the corporate watchdog may be looking for may have long gone to the shredders. — Doris C. Bumbas

Missing stock dividends

SHAREHOLDERS of Stock Exchange investors looking forward to about P750 million in stock dividends declared by the exchange, which was earlier announced as "payable" on June 8, were flabbergasted to find no such windfalls were delivered on that date.

Instead, a memo was posted on the PSE website saying the stock dividends would come when approved for listing by the SEC. Many clients are calling and asking for their shares," one broker said.

The good news is that the stock dividends can be delivered soon, since the SEC had approved the listing during an en banc meeting last Thursday. — Doris C. Bumbas

North Harbor

THE GOVERNMENT has granted only partial approval to the proposed changes in the concessionaire that Regina Navarro Ilustrada North Harbor Port Inc. (NHIC-PI) needs to address under its consortium in developing the Manila North Harbor, the country's busiest cargo and passenger hub.

A transport official revealed that the Philippine Ports Authority approved MDP-IPI's proposal to develop a different part of North Harbor first, but disapproved the company's request to push back the mandated completion of the North Harbor development's first phase to 2017, from the 2012 deadline set in the contract.

MDP-IPI has supposedly asked for changes in the PUA-Hillcrest consortium's terms because the company would not be able to earn as much money as it earlier expected.

"The company's entrance in the growth of cargo and passenger volumes were too optimistic," a source said.

Unfortunately for MDP-IPI, in essence, needs to the government was based on these revenue estimates. Paolo Montecillo

Pension in store

FORMER employees of National Power Corp., and current employees who are nearing their way to retirement, may see here are pension to look forward to.

The Government Service Insurance System last month cut off pension payments to employees who were separated from the company in 2003 following the restructuring of the power industry. The reason: a 2009 Supreme Court decision that sided with Napocor management on the issue of retirement benefits and separation pay.

In a May 4 letter to GSIS president and general manager Robert Vergara, Energy Secretary Jose Rene Almendras asked that state pension fund to "understand the plight of these employees and retirees, bearing in mind that they have religiously paid their contributions."

Employees who were affected and who stood to suffer in the future numbered 8,000.

Vergara explained that the GSIS only stopped sending pensions to retired Napocor employees to strengthen with the Electric Power Industry Reform Act of 2001.

An earlier agreement called for the legal teams of the DOE and Napocor to draft a proposal for a different pay options from the Department of Justice regarding the issue. But while awaiting the DOJ opinion, no pension would be released to retired employees.

However, more than a month after that exchange, the DOJ opinion had yet to be issued, and retirees, and even retired employees, are becoming restless. Everything is still up in the air, apparently. — Abigail L. Ho

SSS keen on buying energy stocks

By Doris C. Bumbas

THE STATE-RUN Social Security System plans to increase its investment in local equities, specifically eyeing a strategic position in power companies.

In an interview, SSS president Emil de Quiros said the pension fund could still afford to increase its equity exposure by around 5 percent of P299 billion worth of investment funds.

"We have a limit of 30 percent. Now, we're running at about 25 percent," De Quiros said.

Based on the amount of funds it has, the SSS may place about P14.5 billion into the local stock markets.

When asked what sector the fund would like to invest in, De Quiros said the SSS would be keen on buying power stocks.

The Social Security System had existing shares in some power companies, but these were not enough to get a board seat.

In investing for power stocks is to invest in. De Quiros said the SSS would

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SSS keen on buying ...

billion mini-cinema, such as a three-year profitability reach record.

Asked about the pension fund's program to invest in high-growth small-cap stocks, De Quiros said the fund had frozen the program even before he assumed the post of chief executive officer.

Meanwhile, he said, the SSS would look for opportunities to invest in infrastructure projects under the government's public-private partnership (PPP) program-even outside of its P50-billion contribution to a fund pool involving government financial institutions.

Outside of the proposed PPP fund, he said there would be opportunities to invest directly in such infrastructure projects or in companies pursuing them.

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BUSINESS

Neda: Nothing wrong with P12-B Ro-Ro project

Agency disputes findings of DoTC under de Jesus

By Paolo G. Montecillo

DBM OIC Secretary Jose "Pepe" de Jesus' line acts as a member of President Aquino's Cabinet may be overturned now that the National Economic Development Authority (Neda) has issued a report, saying that findings of anomalies in the Greater Manila Area Access (GMA) Path project are "premature, at best."

The Neda report, signed by Socio-Economic Planning Secretary Cayetano Paderanga, said the Department of Transportation and Communications (DoTC) review on the controversial P12-billion project was "superficial" and that conclusions were made using two-year methodologies.

"The technical rigor of the DoTC Project Review Committee report is suspect," according to the Neda report which has been submitted to Malacañang. "Hence, the findings on premature, at best."

The Neda added that more technical information and analysis would have to be "presented on then a present comparison of project cost versus similar alternatives can be undertaken."

A DoTC official, who requested anonymity said Neda was merely "passing the buck" because it failed to raise the "red flags" about the project when it had the chance.

Neda approved the project in 2007. The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas later approved the 149-million euro economic development assistance (ODA) loan from Paris-based BNP Paribas in 2009.

The project involves the construction of 72 Ro-Ro on, Roll-off (Ro-Ro) ports around the country.

The DoTC, under de Jesus, earlier recommended that the GMA Ports project, approved by the previous administration, be cancelled or renegotiated at the very least.

"The Philippine Ports Authority (PPA) can competently handle its Ro-Ro ports project if it could lower price using locally available 40K materials available for each specific port site and to the land of site conditions we have in the Philippines," the DoTC had said.

In its review of the project, the DoTC found that locally built concrete ports could be had for less than half the price, and could do the job just as well as French-made ports.

Also, in nearly all the proposed locations, local Ro-Ro ports have already been built, which means adding a French port would be redundant.

However, the Neda report insists that the price of French-made ports against that of local facilities "applies to apples" comparisons.

"To conclude, therefore, that the supplier's technology is superior based on direct cost comparison in local ports requires a huge leap," the Neda said.

Incoming DoTC Secretary Mar Roxas, who assumes the post after de Jesus' June 30 resignation, takes effect, has been ordered by the President to conduct his own review of the Ro-Ro project.

Capturing the taste of the market in the age of technology

The evolving preferences of today's Filipino consumers make the local marketplace a vibrant, exciting and challenging arena. For the inexperienced, it's a hit or miss game. But if you're an instinctive businessman, you'll know right away what would click or what would flyjlo. Truth is, capturing what the market wants entails more than instinct and guts, especially in this day and age of modern technology.

On top of business

Take it from these top Pinoy marketers – the most reliable formula for having a successful enterprise is to have that consumer-driven mind-set for in delivering quality products and services to Filipino consumers, and having the right mix to handle the day-to-day business challenges.

Dr. Hotsenia Hortaleza

Francesca Yu

Edgar Sia

Innovation to get ahead

It's hard to imagine that the company behind renowned personal care products like Mane-Purt, Skin Whiter, Extract, Kalusen, and Vitress was founded with only a meager P15,000. But for Dr. Rolando Hortaleza, president and chief executive officer of Splash Corporation, nothing is impossible with hard work, perseverance and drive to constantly be ahead of the pack.

"My motivation was to create innovative Filipino brands that could compete internationally. Now our products are enjoyed by our kababayans not only here but also in the ASEAN region, Dubai, the Middle East and Africa," explains Dr. Hortaleza.

To be innovative, Dr. Hortaleza says updated on what's hot with his Nokia E7. "With its fast web connection, I keep pace with fresh ideas as our products stay relevant and attuned to our market's taste," shares Dr. Hortaleza. "Also, I just started to do social networking, so with Nokia E7 I get to learn more about keeping in touch with the trendiest even on the go."

The Mail for Exchange feature comes in handy, too, for a frequent traveler like him. "I spend about two weeks abroad so it's a must that I have my Nokia E7 with me all the time so I can monitor and answer my email whenever I am," he says.

For this ingenious entrepreneur, success is always within reach with a powerful gadget that perfectly complements his keen instinct for innovation.

Aiming for a clear goal

Many brand has indeed changed the livelihood business landscape, turning the Benguet delicacy into a nationwide favorite from Mindanao all the way to Luzon. Edgar "Injap" Sia II, chairman and CEO of Injap Investments, proved that success in the food business entails guts and having a particular objective in mind.

"I had a clear goal in creating a business that I could expand nationwide," he says, recalling his early entrepreneurial days. "Although conquering empires! Manila seemed as impossible feat for a probinsyano like me, I conquered it by working 30 times harder," he adds. This recipe for success paved the way to successfully extend the store's branch in Manila only after three years in the business, and achieve its current status in less than eight years.

In order to live up to the company's aspirations, Sia had to travel extensively and be away from his office and home. "I'm always on hold to visit potential locations and market areas. Good thing I have my Nokia E7 so I can check and answer important business email using Mail for Exchange," shares Sia. "The Nokia E7 also keeps me connected to my family back in Belite."

Edgar "Injap" Sia II believes that seemingly unattainable goals can be reached with a perfect plan, backed by hard work and persistence.

Pushing people forward

Convenience and value for money are two concepts that inspired Rustan's to come up with the hypermart format – a store that combines a supermarket and a department store – that quickly became a hit among customers who want a one-stop shop for all their needs. Thirteen years later, Rustan's Shopwise hypermart concept has spawned nine branches all over the metro and is looking at expanding its outlets in the next three years. Shopwise, along with Rustan's Supermarkets and Expressbasket, is undoubtedly among the top supermarkets in the country today.

Frances Yu, vice president for Marketing of Rustan's Supermarkets, Inc., credits the culture that the company has built for the success it currently enjoys. "We establish workplace that allows people to be themselves and inspires them to excel and work in harmony with others. We believe that success comes with team effort and so it is important that we take care of our people."

Having such a challenging position entails Yu to be constantly on the move. But with her Nokia E7, she stays updated on office matters and new ideas from her people through its corporate email capabilities.

She also raves about the living/social quality of the phone which allows her to tune Wifi quality just have whatever else visits this item.

"Nokia E7 is very suited for people like me in the marketing field who are both creative and analytical. It's the kind of phone that serves your business needs and the need to be artistic," Yu Frances. Yu, staying in sync with the people around her and tackling their passion for excellence is key to achieving success in a competitive industry.

Being productive even on the move is definitely possible and can be a recipe for success. Indeed, all you need is a tool made exclusively to enhance your professional – and even personal life.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER 2nd of 5 B1

BUSINESS

DYNAMIC LEARNING

HARD COPY

Trade agency to use Otop program for tourism

Promoting priority goods to tourists

By Abigail L. Ng

THE DEPARTMENT of Trade and Industry is planning to integrate One Town, One Product (Otop) program with the country's overall plan to boost tourism by using these products as souvenir items for tourists.

Trade Secretary Gregory Domingo said the DTI plans to make products under the Otop program available in various tourist-related establishments.

"We will offer these products to hotels and other tourist establishments, possibly premium food tourism in some areas. We want to link tourism with the DTI to ensure we may have a synergy on our promotions," he said.

He said tourism was identified as a primary engine for the country's growth over the next several years. In the fourth 2011 Investment Priorities Plan, tourism was named as one of the priority sectors.

"The Philippines is a beautiful country. We just need to put up the necessary infrastructure and project a good image of the Philippines to get tourists to visit us. The DTI and the Department of Tourism will be closing joint promotions of tourism," he said.

Using the Otop program with tourism promotions would not only help boost tourism, but also perk up support for local micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs), which were mostly behind the Otop products.

The DTI aimed to make the Otop program a vehicle to encourage entrepreneurship, especially in the countryside. To do this, Otop would be developed as a brand and other avenues to market it, including over the Internet, would be explored and put in place.

In an earlier interview, Domingo said the DTI would be seeking counterpart funding from members of the Senate and the House of Representatives, to augment the department's budget for the Otop program.

"Sen. Loren Legarda has offered part of her (pork barrel) discretionary assistance fund) to support the projects. We'll be talking to other senators and congressmen as well. Some funding will also come from the DTI budget," he said.

The Otop program formed part of the 2004-2010 Medium-Term Philippine Development Plan and was instituted mainly to promote entrepreneurship and create jobs.

BSP revising inflation forecasts for '11, '12

By Sunnex W. Domingo

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas will revise its inflation forecasts for this year and next, which will be the basis in deciding whether to increase its policy rates or keep them at current levels.

BSP Governor Amando M. Tetangco Jr. said in an interview that the Monetary Board, which would meet on policy rates on June 30, would assess inflation expectations and the impact of the past two rate increases.

Tetangco's announcement lifted the BSP's intervention from 25 basis points, bringing the overnight borrowing rate to 4.5 percent and the overnight lending rate to 6.5 percent.

"We will consider the inflation outlook and inflation expectations as well. If there is a need for further action or not," Tetangco said.

"If we need to move, we will look at the options available to us. There's much included in the BSP's toolkit, such as changes in the policy rates themselves or the reserve requirements for banks," he said.

The BSP chief said the latest hike on consumer prices—which showed that inflation increased to 4.5 percent in May from 4.1 percent in April—indicated that "inflation are somewhat elevated."

Tetangco said the consistent increase in core inflation—which measures changes in consumer prices excluding the items such as food and fuel, which are subject to volatile price movements—strengthened the belief that inflation was likely to increase further.

"We will also look at developments in the US economy and the pace of recovery to other advanced economies, and latest implications on the Philippine economy," he said.

Last week, Standard Chartered Bank and UBS Securities both said they expected Philippines' monetary authorities to raise policy rates by 25 basis points this week.

That would bring the BSP's overnight borrowing rate to 4.75 percent and the lending rate to 6.75 percent.

Also, both agencies said the BSP was expected to raise its rates twice more—in 25 basis point increments—in the second semester.

That would mean the borrowing rate would climb to 5.25 percent while the lending rate would rise to 7.25 percent.

PRESIDENT Benigno Aquino III attends the launch of Philippine Development Foundation (Toronto) Asia Foundation (USA) in San Jose, California. He is joined by PhilDev vice chair Fernando Zobel de Ayala, chair Dividado Banzon, University of California trustee Richard Blum, and PhilDev president Victor Ika Gantioqui co.

Aboitiz subsidiary buys power barges for ₱2.3B

By Arra B. Rosas

ABOITIZ POWER Corp., through wholly-owned subsidiary Therma Mobile Inc., has acquired four units of barge-mounted floating power plants now moored at the Philcoa Complex in Subic City for P2.3 billion.

According to APC, the barges were owned by Francisco Mobile Power Corp. and Tsuneishi Diesel Power Corp. The deal, it said in a statement, was expected to help prevent a power supply shortfall in Luzon.

The Therma power barges consisted of Sunlon C-fired diesel plants designed for peak load applications.

When fully operational, the barges will have an aggregate dependable generating capacity of 234 megawatts. APC noted that the units it acquired had not been operating for almost five years.

"We believe there assets have a strategic value for APC's generation portfolio. The power barges' mobility and quick-start capabilities help strengthen the reliability we are trying to create," said APC consultant and chief executive officer Erramon I. Aboitiz.

A power barge is essentially a floating power plant that can be towed to and moored in different areas. Therefore, however, require extensive preparations and permits from various agencies.

APC, however, said it had no immediate plans to relocate the units it acquired. It said the priority was to have the units rehabilitated so they would be able to deliver the maximum capacities of the facilities.

Rehabilitation of the units is expected to be completed by December 2011, which will allow the barges to start generating power from there within the first half of 2012.

Therma Mobile, which will handle the operational needs of the Siocon barges, plans to sell the generated power to the wholesale electricity spot market (WESM) in Luzon. It is also planning to offer ancillary services to National Grid Corporation of the Philippines, operator of the national transmission network.

Ancillary services refer to the power supplier-driven services that are necessary to support a high quality, reliable, secure and stable power system.

PSE seen tracking US market movements

By Paolo G. Montecillo

PHILIPPINE SHARE prices will likely track movements on Wall Street this week, with growing doubts over the strength of the world's economic recovery expected to weigh down investor sentiment locally in the local market.

The benchmark Philippine Stock Exchange index (PSEi) ended in the red on Friday, shedding 78 points or 1.62 percent week-on-week.

Although there was some positive news in the local front—such as government estimates showing that inflation was likely lower in May, than seemed not sufficient to offset risk aversion created by the sentiment of the US markets and the prolonged debt woes in the euro zone.

"The lack of positive developments and a strong sense of economic improvement caused the local market to slack off," Jim Arriego from AB Capital Online said in its weekly review.

Trading at a tight range, the index is expected to be moving between 4,203 to 4,340 up until next week, it said.

Aside from external influences, the company said the weakness across the board is also responsible for the index's lower close.

"Net of single index issue was the role factor to drive the market to drop," it said, leaving the PSEi to settle at 4,219.30 points.

"Local investors are lacking incentives to drive the market even if to the recent inflation data," AB Capital said.

PVB eyes ₱500M in profit

By Doris C. Dumlao

PHILIPPINE VETERANS, a private commercial bank owned by Filipino war veterans and their heirs, expects to post a net profit of P500 million this year, which will nearly match year-ago level.

Last year was a banner year for PVB. It grew its net profit by 20 percent to P500 million.

"But 2011 will be a challenging year as competition in the industry and prevailing low interest regime," PVB president Ricardo Dalisdis Jr. said in a statement.

For 2010, the main drivers of PVB's extraordinary net profit included higher interest income, sizable gains from the trading of securities and foreign exchange and strategic management of the bank's investment portfolio. The bank allowed 20 percent cash dividends of 9 percent for preferred and 1 percent for common shareholders as announced during the bank's recent annual stockholders' meeting held at the SMX Convention Center in Pasay City.

During the meeting, Bellido noted that PVB's assets had increased by 13 percent totaling P10 billion from a year ago, funded by about P6B.16 billion in deposits.

The bank president also reported the growth of the bank's capital base by 9 percent to P1.4 billion.

GMA Network unit launches mobile application

By Paolo G. Montecillo

MULTIMEDIA GIANT GMA Network Inc has launched a new smartphone application that will allow users to access content, such as news and television shows, on their mobile devices.

In a statement, GMA Network said its subsidiary GMA New Media, and partners Globe Telecom and Inventual had launched a "breakthrough mobile application" called Video Message Service (VMS).

The new application "allows mobile phone users to access clips of GMA's top-rating shows," the company said. Through VMS, users can also create personal videos and send these like text messages to friends and family, with an option to upload the same content to Facebook accounts.

Users can easily access up-to-date news and information from GMA News and Public Affairs programs such as "Get Otso," "Solve," "Unang Hirit."

Users may also get GMA Entertainment TV programs such as "Banana," "Bubble Gang," "Game KNB," "Pepito Manaloto," "Show Me De Manny Showbiz Central," "Star Talk," "Tween Hearts," "Sisid," "Sine Segrets," "Rakidama," "Marking Showbiz" and "Wagas Pahayag."

The VMS application is initially available to smartphones with Google's Android and Apple's iOS operating systems.

The application can be downloaded for free at the Android Market or the iPhone App Store. By the end of the month, it will also be available to Blackberry and Symbian phones.

APX seen to remain fastest growing budget carrier in PH

MEGHNA SANTIAGO is expected to remain the fastest growing low-cost carrier in the country despite the entry of new budget airlines into the market.

APX's senior vice president for marketing and sales Alfredo Herrera said that while traffic growth posted by all Philippine carriers had increased by 11 percent last year, APX fared better.

With the deployment of six A320s and eight Q400s this year into its fleet left unit of operations store to re-launch in 2009), APX's market share has surged 353 percent to 1.9 million passengers in 2010. APX entered 11 percent of the domestic market last year or nearly four times its market share of 2.9 percent in 2009, making it the country's No. 3 airline, its independent Chairman Frank Ganan the Ayala flexible Aviation, said APX's rapid growth had come at the expense of the top two players that have seen their market share declining due to rising competition from new players.

Following its capacity expansion, APX's market share has so far surged to 19 percent. It is poised to expand further with the plans to add six more A320s before the end of the year.

Gov't ...

From page B1

upgraded.

The leisure estate has a recreational, hotel and residential complex, a 36-hole all weather golf course designed by the Manila-based team of Business, Wright and Haworth, and a casino.

The casino is part of the 4,400 hectare former US military facility to Clark.

The BCDA has the mandate to convert former US and Philippine military bases into productive civilian economic centers.

The fresh attempt to privatize Mimosa will be complemented by the government's ongoing plans to upgrade the budget terminal at the Diosdado Macapagal International Airport (NAIA) in Clark by Mermber taking in a private partner this year.

Casanova assured the public that all privatization projects to be undertaken by the BCDA under the Aquino administration would be done in a "fair and square" and "transparent" manner.

"Sometimes, there are accusations that the TDR [rules of reference] is onerous fir for certain players. It shouldn't be like that way. The bidding must ensure more players who are competent and financially capable," he explained.

BUSINESS

Life just got easier for Small and Medium Enterprises

If there was something out there that could make your life easier, wouldn't you want to know what it was?

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You can have back-to-back meetings without wasting time or money from travel costs. You can get so much more done with your work day, giving you more time to do other things like spending time with family, closing arrangements, or even taking time to pamper yourself.

PLDT AudioConference is part of the PLDT SME Malion's goal of helping SMEs grow in an easy and cost-efficient manner. Now, entrepreneurs have a business partner for growth in PLDT SME Malion.

Gov't debt stock up to ₱4.7T

By Reuirol W. Dumlao

THE GOVERNMENT'S debt stock hit ₱4.706 trillion as of March this year, up by 192 billion or 1.1 percent from month-ago level as borrowings ran paced payments.

Finance Undersecretary Gil S. Beltran, however, said the ratio of debt stock to gross domestic product in the first quarter improved to 51.2 percent from 53.9 percent, boosting hopes for a credit rating upgrade for the Philippines.

Data on total outstanding debt from the Bureau of the Treasury showed that 57 percent or ₱2.687 trillion was borrowed from domestic lenders.

Local debt rose by ₱2.4 billion or 0.1 percent from ₱2.684 trillion posted in February.

Some 43 percent or ₱2.019 trillion of the total debt was booked to foreign currencies such as the US dollar, euro and yen.

Public float loans extended by multilateral lenders and official and from foreign governments, the Philippines also borrows abroad through the issuance of bonds denominated in these currencies.

During the review year by ₱47.9 billion or 2.4 percent from the ₱1.991 trillion owed to overseas lenders in February.

In March, government debt paper pegged in dollars amounted to an equivalent of ₱1.0 trillion, while yen- and euro-denominated ₱758.6billion and ₱99.7 billion, respectively.

The government's total contingent debt—composed mainly of sovereign guarantees—went down by ₱20.8 billion to ₱925.1 billion.

This was mainly due to net repayment of foreign contingent obligations, the appreciation of the peso against the dollar and the repayment of National Power Corp.'s unconsigned bonds.

Beltran said the first-quarter debt-to-GDP ratio fell 2.7 points from last year's 53.9 percent due to economic growth and the government's debt management measures.

Beltran said the government hopes to refund from debt ratings it had been conducting since last year, which already led to the exchange of debts.

The bond swaps extended the average debt maturity of debts as of December by 0.8 years from 7.9 years in June 2010.

"With the gains we are getting, we are confident we can have a credit rating upgrade sooner than later," Beltran said.

Bancommerce, Petron in strategic tie-up

BANK OF Commerce (Bancommerce) has partnered on another landmark achievement with the expansion of its former duropolis branch to the fast-growing C5 Petron service station Brgy. Bagumbayan, C-5, Quezon City.

This first Bancommerce branch at a Petron service station marks the first milestone in the bank's strategic partnership with Petron Corp., which is owned by conglomerate San Miguel Corp.

The establishment of branches in Petron service stations is part of the bank's strategy to reach out further to its target clients through synergies with SMC and its subsidiaries such as Petron. It is also in line with the bank's goal of becoming one of the country's leading commercial banks.

"This first branch demonstrates the strength of the Bancommerce and Petron collaboration, as it is in line with the bank's vision to help build a better nation by serving Filipino families and corporations, one banking transaction at a time," Deo Justino, SVP and branch banking head, said.

Bancommerce offers a wide range of financial products and services, including deposit and investment products, corporate banking, consumer banking, cash management services, treasury and trust services, asset management, and trade facilities.

New Honda Accord offers absolute refinement and power beyond compare

May 16, 2011 – Honda Cars Philippines, Inc. (HCPI) presents an experience of absolute refinement and sheer power with the latest model of Honda's iconic Accord. Carefully designed and crafted to suit the most discerning tastes of modern man, the refreshed model of the Accord is set to fascinate one's senses.

Honda's highly acclaimed premium sedan exudes commanding presence from any angle. Its aggressive front is concluded with deep chrome lines gone into flowing that combined, sporty and sophisticated exterior. With its enhanced premium finish, the 2011 Accord comes with new three grille and bumper designs, and its rear now comes with chrome garnishing on the trunk. Both 2.4 i-VTEC and 3.5 i-VTEC models now come with front cornering lamps in addition to rear sensors for easy parking. Furthermore, the 2.4 i-VTEC model has a new 17" alloy wheel design that matches its dynamic styling.

Extra expansive space inside the second-favoring the biggest cabin space in its class, the Accord offers the pleasure of liberating interiors. Plush leather seats fitted with only the finest choice of interior materials provide commanding luxury for this big sedan, all accessible at the point of a button on the tips of your fingers. And to fulfill the demands of modern living, the 3.5 i-VTEC V6 model comes with hands-free telephone connectivity via Bluetooth to handle calls safely and conveniently.

Still at the heart of the Accord is a powerful engine line-up that is capable of delivering outstanding performance without sacrificing fuel economy. The 3.5 i-VTEC engine delivers maximum power of 271 ps at 6200 rpm. This variant comes equipped with Honda's i-VTEC (intelligent Variable Valve Timing and Lift Electronic Control) system that optimizes valve timing and lift for low-speed torque when not needed, to maximize fuel mileage and lower harmful emissions. Depending on your driving style, VCM (intelligently activates and deactivates cylinders) is also fitted to the 3.5 i-VTEC engine variant. For example, an ECO light appears on the instrument panel to indicate you have the Accord running on only 4 or 3 cylinders. Meanwhile, the 2.4 i-VTEC variant continues with Honda's much-celebrated i-VTEC engine technology and delivers maximum power output of 201 ps at 6,800 rpm, 90 with the new all-16.9% product line-up, the Accord meets EURO 4 emission standards.

Always in control, the Honda Accord never fails to live up to the dynamic needs of the market. Its automatic transmission has a shift control system that cleverly prevents unwanted changing of gears, particularly on winding roads, and despite its massive size, the Accord is actually a pleasure to drive. Thanks to its variable gear ratio, the Accord delivers precise steering response during high-speed driving, whenever only small inputs are required. When parking or when large input is needed, the ratio provides quick and easy steering.

One of Honda's pioneering thrusts includes comprehensive technologies to enhance safety. For every piece of metal, the 2011 Honda Accord comes with the Advanced airbags with an Occupant Position Detection System (3.5 liter variant), ABS (Anti-lock Braking System) with EBD (Electronic Brake force Distribution) and VSA (Vehicle Stability Assist) with Traction Control. Its overall safety performance has earned a 5-star overall safety score from the National Highway Traffic Safety Association (NHTSA) in the U.S. This is also the reason why it is the only vehicle to achieve the highest possible score in all areas and is the first vehicle in its class to carry a 5-star safety rating in each of the three rating categories namely frontal crash test, side crash test, rollover. Altogether, it is also rated the highest possible, especially 5% in all areas of serious injury.

Since its introduction in 1976, the Honda Accord has earned the esteemed of over 10 million owners from 130 countries and has been recognized as "Automotive Excellence" by an independent survey, "Most Dependable Car" by Consumer Reports, "Best Car To Buy" and "Car of the Year" by Motor Trend, and "Car to Own 2005 times" by Kelley Blue Book.

Designed to deliver an impressive driving experience beyond power, the Honda Accord comes in two variants with the following engine and transmission:

2.4 liter iVTEC 5-speed Automatic Transmission
3.5 liter V6 i-VTEC 5-speed Automatic Transmission

Colors available are:

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Alabaster Silver Metallic
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For more details, visit any of Honda's 26 dealerships nationwide, or check our website at www.hondaphil.com. Just always remember to test before you buy. Be smart. Test drive!

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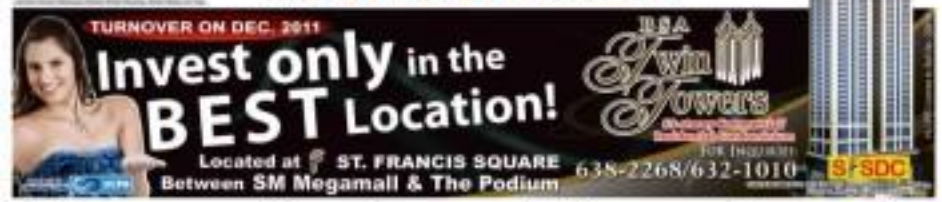
BUSINESS



PH seamen face ban on EU-owned vessels

By Paolo G. Montecillo

THE COMMISSION is facing a possible ban by the European Union on the hiring of Filipino seafarers for EU-flagged vessels due to doubts over the quality of local graduates, maritime training agencies said.

The European Commission earlier this year gave the Philippines until the end of August to address several concerns, including the insufficient monitoring of schools and the low quality of training for local graduates.

"The consolidation of completed corrective actions... and the preparation of other corrective measures with prospective application, together with the timetable for implementation, is in full swing," Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) Undersecretary Leonardo "Bumasta and in a letter to the Joint Manning Group (JMG) late last May.

JMG, in a letter last month, notified DOLE Secretary Rosalinda Baldoz about an announcement by the European Commission to revoke its accreditation of Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping (STCW) certificates issued by local schools.

STCWs are required before seafarers are allowed to work on international vessels.

Other "outstanding deficiencies" in the country were the inconsistent approval and review of courses, insufficient qualification of instructors and assessors and insufficient quality procedures.

The findings were made after two separate visits to the Philippines—one in 2006 and another last year—by the European Commission to review its accreditation of Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping (STCW) certificates issued by local schools.

"Given the nature of the findings, the European Commission is currently not in a position to consider that the Philippines complies with the STCW requirements," said the JMG letter, a copy of which was obtained by the Inquirer.

JMG is the umbrella organization for maritime manning companies in the Philippines.

"I owe local STCWs an unwarranted, European ships will refrain from getting Filipinos in their crew (hopefully it can be addressed soon," JMG member Filipino Association of Manning Employment (MAEE) said.

The Philippines is currently one of the biggest suppliers of seafarers in the world. DOE said there are roughly around 360,000 Filipino seafarers working around the world today, and that the ships from Europe were a "major source."

DOLE said any decision by Europe would not have a retroactive effect, which means only future hires will be banned. Filipinos already working on EU ships will be allowed to keep their jobs.

JMG and the government as well as manning and educational institutions had failed to take action to address deficiencies to resolve these issues, which have been pending for several years.

"This is a very serious matter because it jeopardizes jobs and livelihoods of thousands of Filipinos who work for the European cruise companies," JMG chair Edmundo Montero said.

Quality of local education system found wanting

DTI urges exporters to 'internationalize' products

By Abigail L. Ho

TO BE able to better compete in the global arena, the Department of Trade and Industry is urging exporters to work on "internationalizing" their products, particularly the way their goods are packaged.

In a recent interview, Trade Secretary Gregory Domingo related that most exporters just targeted overseas Filipino workers and did not consider the locals in the countries and territories where they were selling their products.

As a result, he said many of the country's finished product exports were not packaged to attract foreign buyers.

"We told them that they should internationalize their products so that they can expand their market and create increase our exports. They should improve on the packaging to make their products more appealing to the international market," he said.

He related that the DTI was providing assistance to businesses in the area of packaging, as part of the Bureau of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise Development's (BMSD) mission.

The current aims to boost the competitiveness of MSMEs, particularly those in the rural areas. Through these initiatives, the DTI will also pave the way for MSMEs to gain awareness of and easier access to various public and private services that they need in their businesses.

Apart from proper packaging, the nationwide caravan also educates participating businesses on franchising, business ethics, product design, product costing and pricing, food safety, and the entrepreneurial mindset.

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Messages

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BUSINESS

NGCP to invest P48B for grid expansion

Goal: an efficient transmission system

By Jerry E. Esplanada

THE NATIONAL Grid Corporation of the Philippines has earmarked P48 billion over the next four years, to further improve the efficiency and reliability of the country's transmission network, according to company president and CEO Henry Ty Jr.

In an interview, he said the amount will be spread over the regulatory years starting 2011 and ending 2015, and will be used for priority projects as indicated in NGCP's Transmission Development Plan (TDP). Based on the revised TDP, the NGCP has identified so-called core ID projects that needed to be implemented between now and 2020.

Among these projects, according to NGCP documents, were transmission projects associated with the expansion or entry of a power plant, for network expansion needed to meet load growth, for network development needed to resolve congestion and to compliance with requirements of the Grid Code.

"Projects intended to meet load growth and reliability requirements get high priority," the NGCP had said.

The generation-related transmission projects included the upgrading of the Kalayaan-Bay line; installation of a new 600 megavolt-ampere transformer in the Taytay substation and a new line to serve the requirements of Quezon Power Philippines Ltd.; and the reinforcement of the Ambuklao-Binga line in Luzon and Cebu-Colonia-Dalaguete-Naga line in the Visayas.

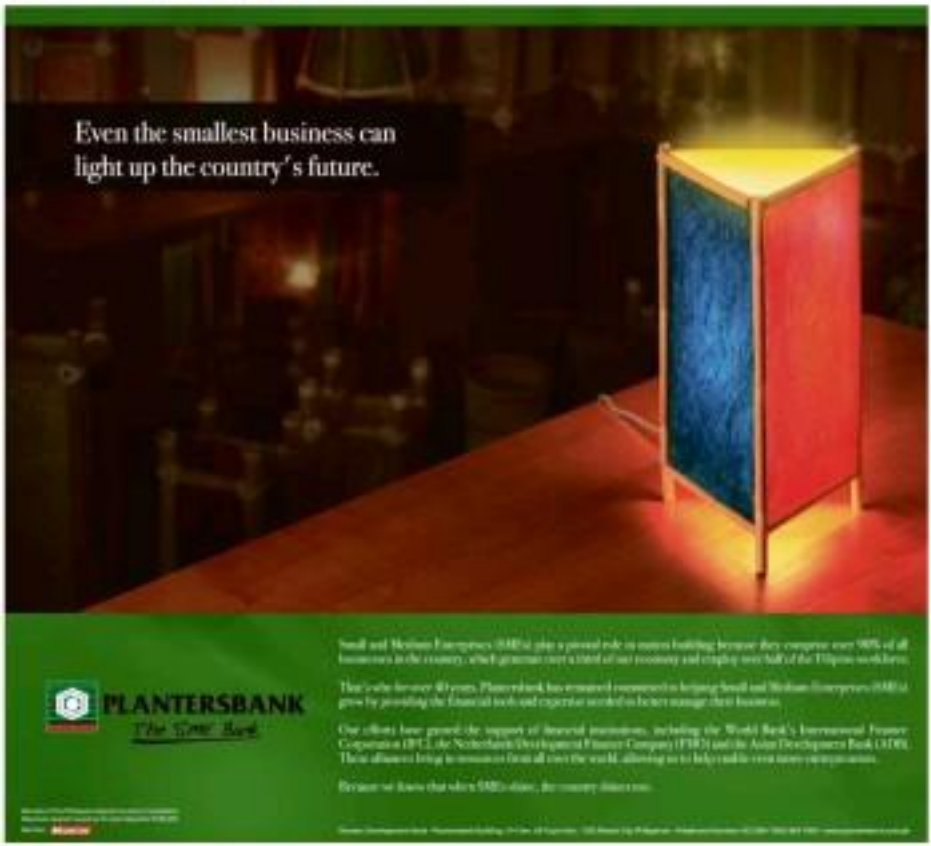
The NGCP meanwhile identified seven load growth-driven projects nationwide, almost all of which were meant to provide additional transformer capacity to meet load growth from 2011 to 2015. Included also is a project to put up a new substation to serve as a new delivery point in Metro Manila and relieve the Taytay substation.

To solve the problem of "congestion" or overloading, which often results in the tripping of power lines, the NGCP plans to upgrade the capacities of the Ambuklao-Binga 230 kilovolt (kV) transmission line and establish the San Jose-Quezon Line 3.

Twenty-two more projects are also being pursued by the NGCP to ensure the reliability and quality of electricity being delivered to power customers.

Some of these reliability projects included the Dasmariñas substation expansion; Luzon voltage improvement; San Jose-Angat 115-kV line upgrading; Cebu-Bunkaw-Lapu-Lapu transmission line; Mariveles substation reliability projects; Agus 6-Naga-to 230 kV transmission line; Tacurong-Sultan Kudarat 138-kV line project, among others.

NGCP president Henry Ty Jr.



Editor Raul O. Morales • Assistant Editor Cecile S. Mariano

BUSINESS

PH oil, gas sector gets attention

By Amy R. Remo

ABOUT 100 global oil and gas exploration and service companies have expressed keen interest in investing in the local upstream oil and gas industry, during the second leg of the government's international road show for the Philippine Energy Contracting Round (PECR) 4, in Singapore.

According to the Department of Energy, attendees to the Singapore roadshow held last Friday included Total, Pogen, Kuwait Foreign Petroleum Exploration Co., Santos, Petronas, Mitsui Oil Exploration Co.Ltd., ENI, Chevron, Ajanbe, Statoilhydro, Lundin Petroleum, Cathay Petroleum, Star Energy, Lapis Oil, Nova Zealand Oil and Gas, Pitt Petroleum, Husky Energy, Nemo Energy, PFC Energy, JHZ Petroleum, Coastal Energy Origin, Eclo Energy and Tower Oil and Gas.

Energy Undersecretary Jose M. Layug Jr. disclosed that even exploration and service companies in neighboring Asian countries attended the Philippine roadshow, including Petronas, Petrosteria, Cue Asia, JCC (Bahrain) Oils Sethad, Tullow Bangladesh Ltd., HDC Oil Malaysia, Petro Perdana Berhad and Structfeld Peninsula Malaysia Inc., Di Nippon and Inpex Energy.

"We are once again overwhelmed by the number of companies who showed up and expressed interest in exploration in the Philippines. This continues to be a testament to the investor confidence in the Aquino administration and the direction it has set for Philippine energy security," Layug said in a statement.

"The attendance at the Singapore roadshow is overwhelming and the interest in investment in Philippine exploration is unprecedented," noted Stephen Doyle, president of the Cathay Petroleum and Southeast Asian Petroleum Exploration Society.

Layug said the Department of Petroleum and Energy of Papua New Guinea had likewise expressed support to the Philippine government's PECR. It said "will encourage its investors to consider the Philippines for exploration." Existing service contractors such as Nido Petroleum, Philodrill, Shell, Forum, Pitkin, Petroenergy were also in attendance to lend full support to PECR 4.

The government is offering contracts to explore and develop 15 highly prospective oil and gas blocks, covering a total area of more than 19 million hectares in Northwest Palawan, East Palawan and Sulu Sea basins. Northwest Palawan is home to the Malampaya deep water gas to power project in the Philippines, the country's largest and most successful natural gas industry project.

PECR 4 formed part of President Aquino's long-term plans to address the Philippines' need for oil and gas and to reduce the country's dependence on costly imported oil.

This platform provides for transparent and competitive system of tendering onshore and offshore oil and gas blocks for exploration to interested oil and gas companies. Under this process, the Department of Energy will determine the remaining bidders based on specific technical, legal and financial criteria, after which the President of the Philippines will award the service contracts.

The DOE is set to host roadshow roadshows in Houston and London. Many investors have already begun registering for the London presentation and are inviting information pertaining to the blocks to be offered.

The demand for oil in the Philippines is estimated at 388,000 barrels per day and with the entry of new companies that will relocate into exploring and developing the country's indigenous resources, the Philippine expects to gradually reduce its dependence on costly imported petroleum products.

There are 28 active petroleum service contracts in the Philippines today with Exxon Mobil, Shell Philippines Exploration, Nido Petroleum, BHP Billiton and Cobra Production Co. among the operators.

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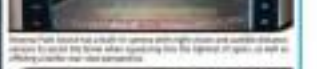

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- Matthew 11:28

Our Dearly Beloved,

MARITA CUETO LEACHON - RAMIREZ

(June 7, 1962 - June 11, 2011)

has peacefully joined her Creator at the age of 49.

Her beloved husband, Francis, children, **Dianne, Gel & Alyanna**, her parents, **Judge Emilio & Pilar** (†), her siblings and their spouses, **Jhojo & Engr. Joey, Dr. Tony & Dr. Margo, Lito & Alfa, Bech & Joni, Archie & Adel, Mayor Boy & Rhona**, father-in-law, **Cesar**, mother-in-law, **Merlie**, sisters-in-law, **Dr. Maricor & Dr. Suzette**, brother-in-law, **Junjun & George Aclinch**, and nephews and nieces, **RJ, JM, Chichi, Mikan, Vana, Jolo, April, Bibay, Mari, Xeren, Marc, Carol, Buboy, Gabby, Red, Reige & Kirsten Aclinch** request the readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Arsenium Chapels by Arlington, Arsenio Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on June 15, 2011, 12:00 noon at Himlayang Pilipino Memorial Park, Tandang Sora, Quezon City.

"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith."

(2 Timothy 4)

It's always such a picture we have a loving tribute to your departed loved one.

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OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:

- Copy of Death Certificate
- Two identification documents (ID)

DATA REQUIREMENTS:
- DECEASED'S NAME
- DATE OF BIRTH
- DATE OF DEATH
- FUNERAL SERVICE
- FOR BURIAL

Col. AUGUSTO "EMBER" R. PERLADA, Ret.

peacefully joined his Creator on June 10, 2011 at the age of 71 years old.

His loving family and relatives request the readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at the Arlington Memorial Chapels, 12 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be announced later.

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Manila

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Judicial and Bar Council (JBC) announces that it will still accept up to **17 June 2011 (Friday)** applications or recommendations (*with the recommendee's conformity*) for the position of **Presiding Justice of the Sandiganbayan**. *New applicants or recommendees must* submit the following documentary requirements on or before **28 June 2011 (Tuesday)**:

Six (6) copies of Personal Data Sheet (JBC Form 1 - downloadable from the JBC Website (http://jbc.supremecourt.gov.ph) with recent ID Picture (2x2)	One (1) copy of Income Tax Return for the past two (2) years 2011 Clearances from the NBI, Ombudsman, Police from place of residence, BIR Office of the Bar Confidant, and employer
Transcript of School Records	Certification of Good Standing or latest official receipt from the IBP
Certificate of Admission to the Bar (with Bar rating)	Results of medical examination (*not more than six months old*) with certification by the physician who conducted the examination
Proofs of age and Filipino Citizenship	Statements of Assets, Liabilities, and Networth for the past two (2) years

Previous applicants who are applying for this above-mentioned position must inquire from the Secretariat about their lacking or out of date application documents and must submit there on or before the above-mentioned deadline for submission of requirements. **Those who fail to comply with the requirements shall not be scheduled for interview nor considered for nomination.**

Likewise, let it be known that there are two more candidates for the position of **Ombudsman**, whose application or recommendation was timely filed, namely, (1) **KALLOS, ROBERT S.** and (2) **MAMAO, ABDULLAH D.**, who will be interviewed on **22** and **29** June 2011, respectively. As to the public interview of Judge **PHILIP A. AGUINALDO**, the same is reset from 22 to **27** June 2011.

The public may submit to the JBC sworn complaint, report, or opposition (in ten legible copies) against the aforesaid two candidates not later than **23 June 2011 (Thursday)**.

10 June 2011.

(Sgd.) **ENRIQUETA E. VIDAL**
Clerk of Court & JBC
Ex Officio Secretary

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES:

Before us is the joint application dated June 3, 2011 of the South Luzon Thermal Energy Corporation (SLTEC) and the Philippine Electricity Market Corporation (PEMC) docketed as ERC Case No. 2011-086.

The Joint Application, SLTEC/PEMC alleged, among others, that:

1. SLTEC is a duly organized and existing corporation, having such and existing under and by virtue of the laws of the Republic of the Philippines, with principal office at the Barangay Ibabang Dupay, Lemery, Batangas, and is engaged in the business of, among others, the generation and sale of electricity to the wholesale electricity spot market (WESM) through the Philippine Electricity Market Corporation, the WESM operator, and to the Manila Electric Company (Meralco) and other customers connected to the Meralco grid;

2. Pursuant to Section 43 (b) of the Electric Power Industry Reform Act (Republic Act No. 9136), otherwise known as the EPIRA, and Rule 18 of the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of the EPIRA, the Commission is empowered to conduct hearings upon its own motion or upon petition by any interested party;

3. Commissioners Alfredo Non, Jr. of the Commission on Audit, the mandated by the Constitution to audit all the accounts, books and records of any person or entity receiving any franchise, certificate or any form of grant from the government, is invited to attend the hearings;

4. To support the application of the above-mentioned party in the exercise of its franchise or grant, a verified statement is attached hereto and;

5. It is an industry convention and practice for wholesale electricity spot market participants to enter into bilateral power supply contracts to cover the electricity to be sold customers from the Wholesale Electricity Spot Market (WESM) pursuant to Section 45 of Republic Act No. 9136, otherwise known as the Electric Power Industry Reform Act of 2001 (EPIRA) and Section 30 of the IRR of the EPIRA;

5.1 Under the said PSAs, SLTEC is obliged to make available and deliver to Meralco the Contracted Capacity of 300 MW and energy at the contracted rate in connection with the supply-side functions of Meralco as a distribution utility, including the provision of ancillary services, in accordance with the Distribution Code, Supply-Demand Code of the Philippine Electricity Market Corporation (PEMC), Transmission Code and WESM Rules, and other applicable laws, rules and regulations, and in the manner and under the terms and conditions set forth in the PSA;

5.2 The PSAs has a contract term of ten (10) years and commenced on 26 June 2010. The commercial operations date (COD) for the Contracted Capacity is 26 June 2010. However, SLTEC declared the commercial operations of its supercritical unit (unit 1) on 26 December 2010 and the subcritical unit (unit 2) on 26 March 2011. Hence, SLTEC has been delivering the Contracted Capacity to Meralco since the declaration of the commercial operations of its units 1 and 2 and is entitled to receive payment for the Contracted Capacity delivered to Meralco;

6. As stated, there is heavy and severe supply deficiency situation in Mindanao. A total loss of 1,000 MW has been experienced and will be experienced in the months of June, July and August 2011 due to the unavailability of the Agus 7 hydroelectric power plant and the Power Barge 117 diesel power plant, both owned and operated by the National Power Corporation (NPC). Hence, the need for the supply of electricity to Mindanao;

7. Luzon, like Mindanao, is one of the major regions that comprise the Philippine power grid. Luzon and Mindanao are connected by the Leyte-Luzon HVDC Project and the 230 kV Mindanao-Visayas Interconnection Project. Against the backdrop of the Mindanao power crisis, the Department of Energy (DOE) issued Department Circular No. DC 2011-05-0008 dated May 31, 2011 entitled "Declaring a State of Emergency in the Power Situation in the Mindanao Grid and Directing the Implementation of Supply Side and Demand Side Management Measures" (DC 2011-05-0008), which declared a state of emergency in the Mindanao power situation and directed the implementation of supply side and demand side management measures in the Mindanao grid;

7.1 The DOE has a preference to tap the Luzon grid to provide Mindanao with the needed power supply. Thus, the DOE issued the Department Circular No. DC 2011-05-0009 dated May 31, 2011 entitled "Directing the Implementation of Interim Measures to Address the Mindanao Power Situation" (DC 2011-05-0009), which directed the implementation of interim measures to address the Mindanao power situation, including the operation of the Leyte-Luzon HVDC Project in monopole mode to transmit power from Luzon to Mindanao;

7.2 Pursuant to DC 2011-05-0009, the National Grid Corporation of the Philippines (NGCP) is directed to operate the Leyte-Luzon HVDC Project in monopole mode to transmit power from Luzon to Mindanao, subject to the technical limitations of the Leyte-Luzon HVDC Project, and to coordinate with the Philippine Electricity Market Corporation (PEMC) and the Luzon and Mindanao Power Coordinating Committees (LMPCC) in the implementation of the said DC;

7.3 Among the said interim measures implemented by NGCP is the power to intervene in the market operations in the Philippine Electricity Market Corporation (PEMC) to implement re-dispatch schedules and direct the implementation of contracted capacities and provisional pricing mechanisms for the Mindanao grid, as provided in the Philippine Electricity Market Corporation (PEMC) Circular No. 2011-05-0010 dated May 31, 2011 entitled "Implementation of Re-dispatch Schedules and Provisional Pricing Mechanism in the Mindanao Grid" (PEMC Circular No. 2011-05-0010);

8. Considering the circumstances, a provisional authorization and the immediate implementation of the PSA;

9. On November 30, 2010, Meralco filed an application for the approval of the proposed PSA under the Automatic Approval/Disapproval Guidelines for Power Supply Agreements Entered into by Distribution Utilities, docketed as ERC Case No. 2010-158 RC (Meralco PSA Case). Subsequently, on May 31, 2011, Meralco filed an Urgent Motion for Provisional Authority with the Commission;

SUBSTANCE OF THE SOLE AND CONSOLIDATED APPLICATIONS

10. **Executive Summary.** The PSA provides that TSI shall supply and sell the Contracted Energy for the agreed contract period of ten (10) years from the COD. The PSA also contains pricing mechanisms as well as terms and conditions for the sale and purchase of electricity. The PSA is attached to the Joint Application as an integral part thereof;

11. The Contracted Energy is to be made available by TSI to the extent that TSI is declared dispatched by the PEMC in accordance with the WESM Rules and in accordance with the Scheduling, Dispatch and Grid Code Rules of the Philippine Grid Code. TSI shall be responsible for the delivery of the Contracted Energy to the Delivery Point. The Delivery Point shall be at the point where the Contracted Energy is to be made available and delivered by TSI to Meralco at the Meralco Substation. Ownership of the Contracted Energy, including the risk of loss thereof, shall pass from TSI to Meralco at the Delivery Point. The Contracted Energy shall be delivered by TSI to Meralco at the Delivery Point in accordance with the Philippine Grid Code, the WESM Rules and the Philippine Distribution Code, and in accordance with the Philippine Electrical Code, the Philippine Distribution Code, and all other applicable laws, rules and regulations;

12. **Metered Quantities (Clause 8.5).** The PSA contains the following specific terms and conditions:

12.1 **Meters.** The PSA provides that all meters shall be owned by each of the parties, or their nominees, which shall be installed at the point of the supplier meter and the consumption meter, respectively, at the Delivery Point. The PSA also provides that the supplier meter shall be used for the purpose of measuring the Contracted Energy delivered by TSI to Meralco in accordance with Clause 8.1.1 of the PSA. The parties to the PSA agree that the consumption meter shall be used for the purpose of measuring the Contracted Energy to be made available and delivered by TSI to Meralco in accordance with Clause 8.1.2 of the PSA. All meters used in the operation of the Delivery Point shall be sealed and shall not be changed, altered, tampered with or interfered with by either party except in the presence of the other party, or its duly authorized representative, after prior notice of at least seven (7) days has been given to the other party, except in case of emergency, in which event notice shall be given immediately after the occurrence of the emergency. Each party shall have the right to be represented at any meter reading, sealing or testing. Meters shall be sealed in the presence of both parties or their duly authorized representatives, and the seals shall not be broken nor the meters opened except when both parties or their duly authorized representatives are present. If either party fails to witness the sealing or opening of a meter after being duly notified, or fails to be represented by an authorized representative, the meter may be sealed or opened and read in the absence of such party. Each party shall keep complete and accurate records and data of the maintenance, testing, sealing, opening and reading of meters. Each party shall have the right to audit the records and data of the other party relating to the meters at any reasonable time. Meters found to be inaccurate or defective shall be repaired, adjusted or replaced at the expense of the party that owns the meter. If a meter is found to be inaccurate or defective, the previous readings of the meter shall be corrected according to the percentage of inaccuracy found by the test. If a meter fails to register, the electricity delivered during the period shall be estimated by the parties hereto based on the best information available. Each party shall immediately notify the other party of any emergency or other event which may result in an outage or other interruption affecting the operation of the Delivery Point. Each party shall maintain and operate its facilities in an efficient manner so as to minimize the likelihood of such outages or interruptions. Scheduled outages or interruptions shall be made upon mutual agreement of the parties hereto. Each party shall make reasonable efforts to avoid outages and interruptions and to restore service promptly when outages occur. Each party shall have the right to schedule outages of its facilities for inspection, testing, repair or maintenance, provided that such outages shall be scheduled during periods mutually agreed upon by the parties hereto. Each party shall use reasonable efforts to minimize the number and duration of scheduled outages. Each party shall give the other party reasonable notice of any scheduled outage, which notice shall specify the period of the outage and the reason for the outage;

12.2 **Contract Energy.** TSI shall make available and deliver to Meralco the Contracted Energy from the Delivery Point. Meralco shall pay TSI for the Contracted Energy made available and delivered by TSI to Meralco at the Delivery Point in accordance with the Philippine Grid Code, the WESM Rules and the Philippine Distribution Code, and in accordance with the Philippine Electrical Code, the Philippine Distribution Code, and all other applicable laws, rules and regulations. The Contracted Energy Fee is computed as follows:

$$CEF = [(P \times Q_{MP}) + (P \times Q_{OP})] \times \frac{Q_{MP}}{Q_{MP}}$$

Where:

CEF	=	Contract Energy Fee in PHP
P	=	Energy Fee portion during the applicable month as specified in the Schedule 1
Q_{MP}	=	Metered Quantity at Meralco's Plant
Q_{OP}	=	Metered Quantity at Meralco's Plant
Q_{MP}	=	Total Quantity from TSP delivered to the Contract Capacity
EAF	=	Equivalent Availability Factor
Q_{MP}	=	Total Metered Quantity at Meralco's Plant

BUSINESS

THE NEW officers of the Association of Bank Compliance Officers Inc. pose with BSP officials after taking their oath of office before Bangko Sentralng Pilipinas Governor Amando M. Tetangco Jr. (from left): Mel Bustamante (Deutsche Bank), Rita De La Vega (Bank of America), Arnulfo Aniparado (Metrobank), Frank E. Capatongan (BDO Unibank Cor. (BDO Savings), Richard David C. Parel-E (AMLC), managing director Lara I. Silvestre (BSP), Dante F. Fuentes (China Bank), Tetangco, Marilyn Dino (BPI), Vic Arboleda (BDO Universal Bank), Cynthia Torrevino (ING Bank), Bernadette Santos (Mega International Commercial Bank), Alex Cordero (PNB) and Juanito Bunyi (Maybank Corporate Bank Ltd.)

Cirtek eyes public offer in 3rd quarter

By Doris C. Dumlao

LAGUNA-BASED semiconductor manufacturer Cirtek Electronics Corp. plans to debut on the Philippine Stock Exchange in the third quarter to raise funds for expansion.

Cirtek, owned by Taiwanese-Filipino businessman Jerry Liu, who also heads the Figaro Coffee and Angel's pizza chain, has assigned BDO Investment and Capital Corp. to arrange the initial public offering.

In an interview, Cirtek senior director for sales and marketing Antonio Collarosa said the company was in the process of filing its IPO application with the Securities and Exchange Commission, but noted that the offering size had not been determined yet.

Collarosa said the company would offer only primary shares, thereby raising fresh funds for its expansion program that will require as much as $20 million.

It is 18 years of operation, Collarosa said the company had been consistently profitable, thus treating the three-year track record required for listing on the PSE.

He added that the company had grown over the years using export and internally generated funds and had no need to borrow from banks.

Hoping to take advantage of recent opportunities in overseas markets, Collarosa said Liu would be willing to cede around 30 percent ownership of his company to the public to fund future expansion.

With its factory in Laguna Technopark in Biñan operating at around 90 percent of capacity, Cirtek plans to expand its manufacturing facility.

Cirtek has two factory buildings in Laguna—one has 45,000 square feet in manufacturing space while the other occupies 75,000 square feet. The company plans to put up a third building, measuring 150,000 square feet, to make room for expansion in the next two years.

At the same time, plans are in place to acquire new equipment to cope with fast-changing demand for electronics.

Apart from raising fresh funds, Collarosa said going public would "strengthen Cirtek's standing in the international markets and allow it to negotiate contracts."

He also said that it would be a great time for a "well-run" company like Cirtek to go public and boost funds for expansion.

"We are bringing in a lot of opportunities to the Philippines right now our volume will be close to P1 billion this year. That means we will be shipping out close to one billion units of semiconductor devices this year," Collarosa said.

Cirtek currently has about 1,400 employees which may increase by up to 15 percent this year based on the volume of new business to be generated by the company.

Focus on crops, PH urged

Oxfam, FAO cite country's vulnerability to price shocks

By Riza T. Chichioco

THE PHILIPPINES and other so-called Low-Income Food Deficit Countries (LIFDCs) are among the most vulnerable to food price shocks, according to experts.

"[The] Philippines is expanding as much of its rice and as it's very vulnerable to rice prices," Oxfam Great Britain CEO Barbara Stocking said in an interview.

"The general situation for agricultural crops and food commodities is tight with world prices at stubbornly high levels, posing a threat to many low-income food deficit countries," David Hallam, director of the markets and trade division of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations, said in a statement.

Dr. Rolando Dy, an agribusiness economist with the University of Asia and the Pacific, has already predicted as much. "When it is up, upside the price of food items, including rice," Dy said earlier.

International food prices, which in February soared to levels not in the 2007-2008 food crisis, dropped a modest 1 percent in May 2017, according to the FAO. Declines in the prices of cereals and sugar more than offset increases in meat and dairy.

However, high and volatile farm commodity prices are likely to persist for the rest of this year and maybe well into 2018 because the international supply of farm commodities such as cereals, oilseeds, meat, and fish can barely meet demand, FAO said.

The FAO said LIFDCs, along with Least Developed Countries, would be hardest hit if they would likely have to respectively spend 17 and 30 percent more on food imports than in 2016.

Expenditures on imported foodstuffs for "vulnerable countries" could make up roughly 28 percent of their total export bills compared to a would average of around 7 percent, FAO said.

Globally, the food import bill is expected to reach a new record of $1.25 trillion in 2017, or 21 percent more than in 2016.

Current prospects for cereals (such as wheat and rice) in 2017 point to a record harvest of 2,335 million tons—a 3.5 percent increase over 2016, which marked a 1-percent drop over 2015.

However, demand for cereals has also been increasing. The FAO said this means that the 2017 crop, even at record levels, is expected to be barely more than consumption." This would support further price increases, even though the Bautista-Bolante's anticipated revival of cereals exports next month could help relieve some of that pressure, according to PBCom's general analyst, Abdilberto Abbusian.

In the oilseeds market, supplies in 2017/18 may not be enough to meet growing oil and meal demand, implying further reductions in global inventories, FAO said. There are apparently better prospects to export because of large anticipated production in 2018/19, which is likely to surpass consumption for the first time since 2007/08.

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PCSO sees more growth

BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS (AP) — The Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office are designed to transform the agency into an efficient welfare unit of the government for the poor.

This was stressed by PCSO Chair Margie Juico after the agency posted humor sales performance in the first quarter, when PCSO posted a 12.21 percent sales growth over the same period last year. The growth is equivalent to P628.371 million.

"We lose the odds, losing public confidence is back," Juico said.

Also hailing the agency's P668.869-million record sales target on a result of more fiscal discipline and control, Juico said both earnings and savings were being maintained to benefit the health needs of the poor and to support worthwhile economic projects.

The PCSO chair see more growth opportunities ahead. "For this purpose, we have mapped out plans to harness those growth areas and maximize our quality service."

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Region V (Bicol)
LEGAZPI CITY

DepEd

OFFICE OF THE BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

Invitation to Bid
for the Construction of Four (Some Digit) Administration Building (Division of Milbo) (Phase II – Project I, II, III & IV)

1. The Department of Education Regional Office V through the General Appropriations Act for FY 2017 intends to apply the sum of Php [illegible] being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for construction of Four (Some Digit) Administration Building (Division of Milbo) (Phase II – Project I, II, III & IV) and bid documents are hereby declared to be automatically rejected at bid opening.

2. The Department of Education Regional Office V now invites bids for the construction of a [illegible] Bicol which includes all the works, materials, labor, equipment, and incidentals necessary to complete the Project in accordance with the plans, specifications and terms and conditions as contained in the Bidding Documents. The Contractor is required to complete the Project within [illegible] calendar days from the date of receipt of the Notice to Proceed. Delivery of the Project is required by [illegible] as indicated in the Bidding Documents.

3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act 9184 (RA 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act".

4. Bidding is restricted to Filipino citizens/nationals, partnerships, or organizations with at least seventy percent (70%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines.

5. Interested bidders may obtain further information from Department of Education Regional Office V and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

6. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested bidders from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents in the amount of Php [illegible].

7. The Department of Education Regional Office V reserves the right to reject any or all bids, declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract at any time prior to contract award without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

8. For further information, please refer to:

Maria V. Tabilon
DAC Secretariat
Department of Education, Rizal's Legacy City
Tel. (052) 480-2018

Atty. CRISOSTOMO M. SALVATIERRA
Bids Chairperson

By:

Atty. JOSE S. BONITO
Bids Vice Chairperson

Editor Raul O. Morales • Assistant Editor Cecile S. Mariano

BUSINESS

Carstens, Lagarde battle over top IMF job

Executive board set to meet today to discuss post

WASHINGTON—The politics of two dark-horse candidates: left France's Christine Lagarde and Mexico's Agustin Carstens: the only apparent competitors to head the IMF as economic crisis closed in midnight Friday.

Now the International Monetary Fund's executive board faces a difficult political, rather than much-touted, decision when it meets Monday to begin hashing out who will become managing director of the world's crisis lender.

In Lagarde, France's finance minister, board members would have someone intimately open speech on Europe's crisis this year, that's sending Greek rescue, as well as a leader in the much-needed reform of the global financial system.

In Carstens, Mexico's central bank chief, they would have someone who has already served three years as the IMF's number three and who could certify developing country calls to break the European 65-year lockhold on the job.

The pullout of two other potential candidates—Calgary Mercedes of Kazakhstan and Trevor Manuel of South Africa—underscored the widespread belief that Lagarde already has a done deal.

Neither candidate was acting as if it was settled. Lagarde went to Lisbon to woo members of the African Development Bank, which Carstens was in New Delhi pitching for support.

The job opened unexpectedly after Frenchman Dominique Strauss-Kahn resigned on May 18 to fight sexual assault charges in New York.

The 24-member executive board, representing all the IMF's members, has targeted the end of June to reach a consensus on one of the candidates, the way it has decided in the past. AFP

Investors fear more stock losses ahead

NEW YORK—The Dow and S&P 500 closed out their sixth week of losses on Friday as further signs of a global economic slowdown set the stage for more losses ahead.

The deepening gloom raised the prospect for the S&P, which suffered its worst week since August 2010, to break below the year's low of 1,256 next week.

The Nasdaq edged out its yearly gains on Friday and also posted its biggest weekly decline since August 2010, as the latest deterioration in economic data in four of Ragging Chinese growth and fresh concerns about Greece's debt crisis.

The Dow closed below 12,000 for the first time since mid-March.

Reflecting the bearish sentiment, options traders overwhelmingly bet the CBOE Volatility Index, Wall Street's so-called fear gauge, which moves inversely to the S&P 500's performance. The VIX rose 6.1 percent to end at 18.06.

"We broke below the April low, which was about 1,295 on the S&P 500 pretty much at the open [Friday]. For sure probably going to test the March lows if data [this] week remains weak," said Stephen Wunsch, managing director at Wellfleet Morgan in San Francisco.

"But investors are very susceptible to any kind of news and since we are very oversold here, we could see this market instantly bounce back if we get anything remotely good."

The Dow Jones industrial average fell 171.45 points, or 1.42 percent, to 11,951.91. The Standard & Poor's 500 Index slid 18.02 points, or 1.401 percent, to 1,271.98. The Nasdaq Composite Index tumbled 41.14 points, or 1.53 percent, to 2,643.72 at the close.

For the week, the Dow was down 1.6 percent, the S&P 500 was off 2.2 percent and the Nasdaq was down 3.3 percent. Reuters

Oil supply gap looms, Opec says

LONDON—Opec followed Iran's failure to reach an output deal with a forecast world oil supplies would begin to fall short lower this year, declaring investors just when demand is expected to hit a seasonal peak.

In its monthly report published Friday, Opec said world demand for its oil would average 30.7 million barrels per day (bpd) in the second half of the year, much higher than the 29.07 million bpd the 12-member group produced in May.

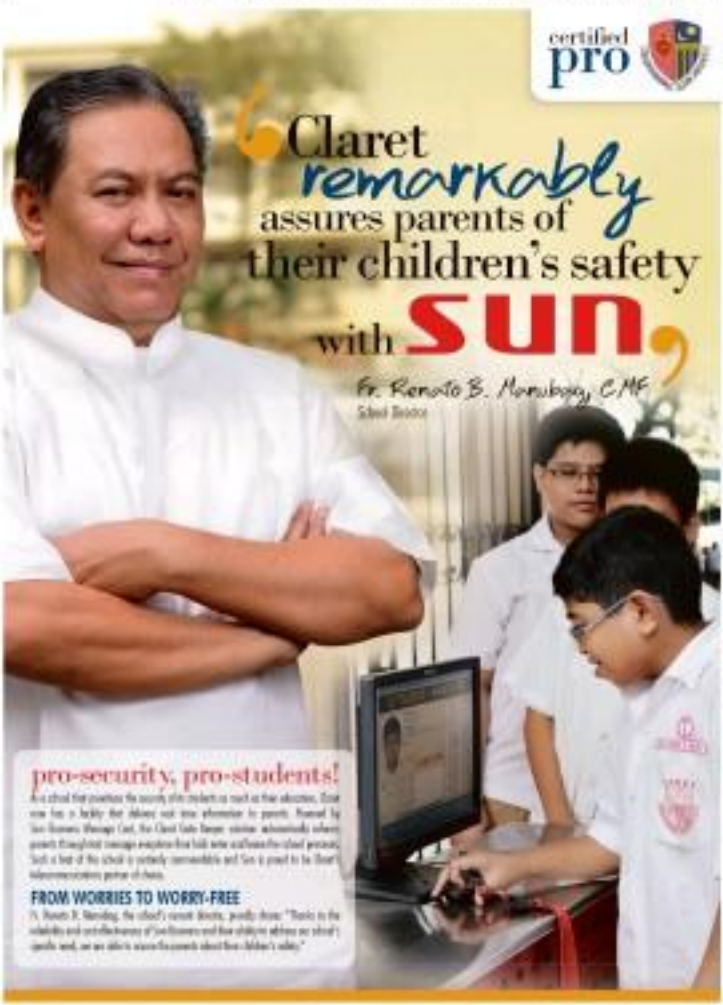
The Opinion suggest the world will be undersupplied by 1.75 million bpd—enough to exert demand in an economy the size of France—if the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries does not increase supplies.

"Looking to the remainder of this year, the expected supply/demand balance looks to be a tightening market," Opec's report said. "As a result, global inventories could continue to decline as the market enters a period of high seasonal demand."

Opec, source of more than a third of the world's oil, met in Vienna for the first time this year on Wednesday and for the first time in around a decade failed to make a decision on output policy.

The group's secretary general Abdalla Salem el-Badri after the meeting, members had different considered and were unable to agree on any level for more oil, members said political tensions also played a part in the split.

Oil prices fell on Friday as top Opec producer Saudi Arabia began offering more oil to customers, easing worries about supply. Brent crude was down more than $1 a barrel, and trading below $119 a barrel. Reuters



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INFOTECH

THE PLASTIC body of the X2-01 features slimmer lines and curvy edges.

THE NOKIA X2-01 is perfect for those who want to do social networking on the go, without shelling out big bucks.

An inexpensive social networking partner

Text and photos by Charles E. Rubio

IF YOU'RE a student or someone living on a tight budget, Nokia's X2-01 may prove to be benevolent.

At a relatively low price of about P4,000, the X2-01 allows you to enjoy the perks of having a premium handset phone where you may send and receive e-mail, chat or even check and update your Facebook, Twitter or Yahoo! Messenger accounts.

Communication is made much more convenient as the X2-01 is equipped with a full qwerty keypad, a customizable messaging key to open e-mail, text messages or instant messages.

More importantly, it boasts of a wide (320 x 240 pixel) QVGA), 2.4-inch screen.

Perfect

When social networks come to mind, people who love typing in status updates and instant messages will find the X2-01 a perfect companion.

Instant messaging has long been a problem for mobile phones with conventional alphanumeric keypads. But this kinds have all been restored as the X2-01 offers a complete selection of characters, numbers, letters and symbols.

Replying to e-mail or entering one, chatting or updating your social networks using the X2-01 is much faster, enabling users to dispense with the use of shortcuts or shorthand.

This works the same way for text messages, which is made more fun as you can now keep track of text messaging through the X2-01's conversation view.

Caveats

But of course there are caveats that come from the fact that it has no Wi-Fi, the X2-01 uses GPRS and EDGE (2.5G and 2.75G, respectively), a connectivity set to a bit slower than the 3G used by premium mobile devices.

Also, the X2-01 runs on a much simpler Series 40 (S40).

Fortunately, these weak points did not make the device less enticing. It's luxurious appearance makes it classy and makes the phone modern in its price range.

It offers a 40-MB internal memory and a microSD external slot memory that may be expanded to 8GB, perfect for storing music files considering that the device comes with Nokia's range of music and entertainment devices.

Globe storms all 4G fronts

By Paolo G. Montecillo

NETWORK GIANT Globe Telecom has launched a new line of devices that will allow users to take advantage of the company's new fourth-generation, or 4G, network that delivers the fastest wireless Internet connection speeds in the country today.

Last week, the company announced the release its "revolutionary" Tattoo (Yolkin Lumberghie), the fastest mobile broadband stick available in the market today. It provides subscribers with Internet speeds of up to 10 megabytes per second (mbps)—five times faster than regular broadband speeds.

On Friday, Globe also launched the first 4G-enabled mobile phone in the country, the Samsung Galaxy S II.

The Samsung device enables users to take advantage of the HSPA+ (high-speed packet access) technology enabling them to enjoy mobile Internet speeds of up to 5 mbps.

The device has a 4.3-inch SuperAMOLED capacitive touchscreen display delivering impeccable color, enhanced readability, and minimum eyestrain because of its super bright crystal display (XLCD) screens.

Powered by Google's Android 2.3 Gingerbread operating system and a 1.2 gigahertz dual-core processor for fast web browsing, seamless multi-tasking, and superior graphics, "users experience PC-like browsing in the palm of their hands," Globe said.

Touted as the "best generation smart phone" and the next step in the evolution of mobile communication, the Galaxy S II is exclusively available to Globe subscribers for free under My SuperSurf Plan 2799 starting June 17.

Completing the 4G portfolio is the Video Message Service (VMS)—the newest and one of the most interactive media channels for mobile phone users under the 4G network and the Samsung Galaxy S II device.

The new VMS was launched in partnership with CNN News18 Inc., one of the country's largest news television networks.

Aside from giving access to regular TV content, VMS also allows users to connect with their favorite celebrities by following their video blogs and music stations or being updated with events through Globe's partnership with CNN News Mobile.

The VMS be will available for free to My SuperSurf Plan subscribers until July 31.

To date, commercial deployment of HSPA+ has doubled, expanding coverage in Mindanao, Bicutan, Cebuana and Valenzuela.

Globe IP network nearing full transition to be IPv6 ready

GLOBE has already set in motion the transition of its core IP network to IPv6, or Internet Protocol version 6, making sure it is fully prepared as the Internet runs out of IPv4 addresses. Currently, public IPv4 addresses are being used to connect to the Internet and with these facing exhaustion in the near future, there is a strong need to move toward IPv6.

IPv6 supports a vastly larger amount of IP addresses than its predecessor. It can accommodate the immensely growing number of users, devices with wireless or wired access, and web services on the Internet. IPv6 will enable enterprise customers to have more public IP addresses to allocate within their organizations.

IPv6 has a 32-bit address size, the sequence of numbers assigned to each Internet-connected device, which translates to approximately four billion IP addresses. IPv6, widely considered as the next-generation IP, has a 128-bit address space, which allows over four billion times more space on the Internet; it will enable more people to connect online, allowing the Internet to sustain its enormous growth.

As Globe completes its IPv6 deployment, it will be able to provide a seamless Internet experience for its customers. The transition to IPv6 on its core IP network will give enterprises access to both IPv4 and IPv6 sites or destinations on the Internet, as the resulting infrastructure will be capable of transporting both types of traffic. Globe customers' enterprises of business continuity for a seamless transition to IPv6.

"With this initiative, business processes requiring Internet connectivity will remain uninterrupted. Our users will have continued access to the Internet using new IPv6 addresses. While other Internet service providers around the world are still considering the transition to IPv6, Globe is very much prepared to make the move and supports its early adoption in the Philippines. Enterprises can expect a smooth transition as Globe is now closer in becoming 100 percent IPv6 ready," said Jesus C. Romero, Head of Globe Business.

Globe is the first local telco to test IPv6 with DOST-Advanced Science and Technology Institute and PhGrNetIX. DOST-ASTI operates PHGRNET, which is the research and education network of the Philippines that pioneered IPv6 trials in the country in 2000. DOST-ASTI also operates PhOpenIX, a carrier-neutral IPv6 and IPv4 exchange point in the Philippines. The transition of the IP network of Globe also supports the government's mandate to deploy and use IPv6, encouraging its agencies and the private sector to promote its adoption within the country.

Today, Globe already has IPv6-sessions with top global carriers and content distribution networks. Globe is the first Philippine carrier to enable IPv6 with AT&T, Colt, Level 3 Communications, SingTel, Sprint, StarHub, Limelight Networks and Yahoo!.

"As one of the first network providers to roll out IPv6 capabilities globally, Colt's Wireless Worldwide is well placed to be one of Globe's IP Partners. As LTE, the synergic burrow platform which Globe taps on, has supported IPv6 since 3081 and extensive IPv6 peering. We are pleased to be able to partner with Globe in providing dual-stack IPv6 and IPv4 services, so as to support the fast growing internet usage in the Philippines and to ensure an undisrupted surfing experience for end-users," said Nick Lambert, Managing Director for Global Markets of Colt's Wireless Worldwide.

Similarly, Kirk Williams, Senior Director of Infrastructure Strategy at Yahoo! stated, "As a leader in addressing the scaling challenges of the Internet, Yahoo! is delighted to see Globe's commitment to IPv6 readiness and to be the first Philippine carrier to enable IPv6 peering with the Yahoo! network. IPv6 readiness is critical to supporting our customers and advertisers within the Philippines and around the world. As a founding organizer of World IPv6 Day, Yahoo!'s goal is to motivate organizations across the industry – Internet service providers, hardware makers, operating system vendors, and Web companies – to prepare their services for IPv6 to ensure a successful transition as IPv4 address space runs out."

Globe will participate in the World IPv6 Day, which is the global-scale testing of the new IPv6, set on June 8, 2011. The Internet Society, a non-profit organization founded in 1992 to provide leadership in Internet-related standards, education and policy, announced that Google, Facebook, Yahoo!, Akamai and Limelight Networks will offer their content over IPv6 during the 24-hour test drive. The goal is to accelerate IPv6 deployment worldwide and Globe aims to actively contribute to this initiative by taking part in the upcoming World IPv6 Day.

For more information on IPv6, log on to http://ipv6.globe.com.ph.

Intel launches digital film tilt

By Abigail L. Illy

THE PAST several years have seen the rise of independent filmmaking in the country, with many of them having mainstream flicks under their belt, doing award-winning and some of them even raking in big bucks at the box office.

Intel Philippines Inc. wants to further encourage independent filmmaking in the country by launching a digital short film competition on the country's most ubiquitous social networking site, Facebook.

With Filipinos ranking among the top Facebook users in the world, Intel Philippines says the site as a good vehicle for the contest.

The digital shorts competition also aimed to promote the use of personal computers.

"We want to showcase the Filipino creativity and skill across the region, and channel it through the usage of a PC," Intel Philippines marketing manager Sandy Rangel said.

The 3-minute, budding filmmakers will have to make a short video—ranging in length from 30 seconds to 3 minutes—about how the PC affects their lives.

Videos may be shot in any format, but will have to be converted into FLV format to stay within the target that YMU.

"In past video entries, filmmakers will first have to "film" their facebook page. There is no limit to the number of entries that individual participants may post, but nobody can win more than once. Videos should be posted not later than July 22 to qualify.

A panel of Intel-appointed judges will narrow the field down to several entries. The finalists' videos will then be posted on Intel's Facebook fan page, with the winners to be judged by other Intel Facebook fans.

Voting will run for two weeks, after which the three highest vote-getters will be declared winners. These filmmakers will bring home notebooks powered by second-generation Intel Core i3, i5, or i7 processors.

As a bonus, Intel Filmmakers BA Flores and Quark Henares will be providing filmmaking advice to budding directors, also on the Intel Facebook fan page.

Meanwhile, Intel Corp. is giving a chance to PCcon processor enthusiasts from India, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam to win a month-long escape on a private island in Indonesia.

Consumers who buy a PC powered by a second generation Intel Core i3 or i7 processor, or a Intel second generation Core i3 or i7 from June 13 to Aug. 31 will be eligible to join.

Three qualified participants need only send a text message to designated Intel numbers, (0926-2121266 for the Philippines, via this former island typed) email address.

There will be only one winner for the month-long get-away to Jetjo Island, but runners-up will be chosen from each of the countries for a seven-day vacation in the same location.

Students who will turn 18 or 19 PCs or board processors will also be eligible to win a three-night vacation on Pom Pom Island, another private island in Indonesia.

For SMEs, ThinkPad provides clear edge

By Raquel P. Gomez

THE THINKPAD Edge brand was specifically created by Lenovo for small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in need of affordable and durable PCs equipped with productivity tools and features.

Relatively a new contrast to the market, Lenovo's top-of-the-line ThinkPad brand has been growing in number along with screen size variations.

Recently, Lenovo came out with the ThinkPad Edge E420, a 14-inch screen slim laptop that with Intel Core i5 2410M ThinkVantage Technologies and Intel Core processor with built-in graphics capability), a 4GB RAM soldered in, and a spacious 320GB hard disk.

As a laptop meant for professionals' skills, the E420 has an expansive feel to it. The device has a black velvety matte texture, while the chassis is highlighted by a chrome silver strip that borders the screen and sides of the spacious keyboard.

The E420 also sports a chrome silver finish that surrounds the screen slightly in place. The same screen can also be opened to an extreme 180 degrees, allowing the whole laptop—keyboard and screen—to lie flat on a surface.

Another expansive design feature of the E420 is a slot-loading optical drive, which may be found in MacBooks and other high-end laptops priced beyond the 60,000 price mark.

The E420 also features a fingerprint scanner located on the right side of the touchpad, enhancing the security of the device.

For business use, the E420 features the ThinkManage 2.0 tools...a set of useful applications arranged in a user-easy-to-navigate user interface.

The tools are purposely built in to help businesses with little IT support to allow their employees access to a sort of "IT support" that already sits in the laptop.

For example, from the ThinkManage UI, a user may be able to remotely recognize the PC or even back up files easily or thoroughly delete confidential files.

The user can likewise manage hard drive protection (degree of protection), Internet connections, and even security monitoring.

For the latter function, a user can cancel out the tests made by typing on a keyboard during a Skype web-conference, to ensure that the party you are talking to at the other side won't be hearing the sounds of the keyboard while talking to you.

The E420 is strikingly thin and light. It measures an inch thick and weighs four pounds.

It has the hardware parts you would expect from a business laptop—a 720p HD webcam, multi-card reader, eSATA, LAN, VGA, and even a slot for SIM card (for data connection to a telco). The screen's resolution is at 1366 x 768 and the keyboard is provided by that of Intel Graphics, which provides dedicated video memory of 64 MB.

In all, the E420 has a lot more than their previous ThinkPad Edge laptops. And that translates to a premium tag of P62,800 which, come to think of it, may not exactly fit an SME's budget.

E-mail: business@inquirer.com.ph
Website: www.inquirer.net/business

BUSINESS Monday

by Margie Quiroga-Espino

For Ericsson, the future looks smart and lazy

By Ron T. Dalusung

RAJ PANGREKAR, Ericsson Philippines president and country manager, knows what kind of worker he wants if he were to choose between "smart and hardworking" or "smart and lazy."

"Smart and lazy, of course," Pangrekar says in an interview.

Why?

It's for the simple reason, he says, that smart and hardworking people tend to stick to tradition, while the smart and lazy tend to figure out better and faster ways to get things done.

Simply put, smart and lazy equals innovation. That's how humans, always trying to save time and effort, have thrived on this good earth.

Having worked with telecommunications operators for many years, Pangrekar should know.

Many years ago, he says, when people were still writing letters and sending them by post, they wouldn't have believed it if someone had said people would soon be sending the mail electronically.

"I wouldn't have believed it myself," he says. But since then, we've had the telegram, fax, e-mail, and now texting, chatting, and cloud computing.

"Demand for communication has been there since 5 billion years ago and will always be there," Pangrekar says.

But the future will likely be so much more different and fundamentally changing than all the previous years combined.

Enabled by the boom in broadband, innovations that humans would not have imagined years ago are now taking shape:

- Instant access to information, and even documents, on the go;
- Smartmeters for remote utilities meter reading, analyzing bills via the Internet or mobile phones;
- Mobile health applications from Bluetooth-equipped blood pressure gauges to online consultations and remote controlled treatments;
- Early disaster warning; and
- Use of mobile wallets from shopping to banking.

Of the 6.9 billion people around the world, there are 5 billion mobile subscribers, while 800 million have access to broadband connections. By 2015, there may be 5.0 billion broadband subscribers.

By 2020, broadband connections will have grown a thousand-fold in data traffic.

This is because, over the next 10 to 20 years, many more devices than are part of our daily lives, from appliances such as refrigerators to cars, will get on the Internet and be able to communicate to make our lives easier, Pangrekar says.

Having more refrigerators will not be the only form of energy-saving gains may only be changes of by someone who's smart and lazy.

With applications multiplying exponentially, operators need to keep up with demand for broadband. Network transformation will thus gain momentum globally.

"Philippine operators have an interest in that," Pangrekar says.

Does this mean all new technologies matter?

Pangrekar says that while new models are much more design-forward, Ericsson still needs to keep in touch with operators to know their changing needs and come out with innovations that are interested in it, it's just the kind of innovation that makes our networks more efficient, last easily, and kinder to the environment. So we get much more value from every megawatt."

> 'Demand for communication has been there since 5 billion years ago and will always be there,' Pangrekar says

In other words, smart and lazy.

Another of our dreams is making our products more 'green,' for example," Pangrekar says. "It's not just because it's the new thing or that operators require business, such as energy efficiency, to address the ever evolving lifestyle of consumers.

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Three executive bootcamps set

MASMARTE AND Fashion Inc. mounts an executive bootcamp for decision-makers, entrepreneurs, CEOs, heads of functional units such as marketing, sales, product development, R&D, finance, and strategic planning.

Intrapreneurship, or innovation-based entrepreneurship, will be discussed to detail in the 2nd Entrepreneurship Strategy and Innovation Bootcamp on July 8-9, at the Mandarin Hotel, Makati City.

This bootcamp will allow businessmen and would be entrepreneurs to share and test their new-venture concept or validate their existing venture from fellow entrepreneurs, as well as learn entrepreneurial strategies, integrating marketing and finance, personal branding, etc.

Early bird registration is up to June 24.

On July 11-13, the 36th Market Driving Strategies (MDS) Executive Bootcamp will be held at the Mandarin Oriental Hotel, Makati City.

It is an retreat for every brand managers and marketing managers. MDS is about winning based relevance instead of roots in unduly spending for costly brand preference.

It combines three important ingredients needed to nurture a business: Marketing, Innovation and Strategic Planning.

To be discussed are how to find new brand relevance; how to leapfrog from being number 3 to number 1; how to revive a declining industry; how to compete with low price competitors; how to convert deep brand customer's frustrations into an opportunity and many more.

Early bird registration is up to June 28.

On Aug. 4-5, at the Hotel Intercontinental in Makati City, the 6th Business Model Innovation seminar will allow nascent members and senior marketing executives to update concepts, tools, frameworks and methodologies behind the Business Model Innovation using never before presented cases.

It will also teach participants how to integrate marketing, finance and operations to create a new and more profitable business model, how to fight dominant market leader or how to compete with established brands using a new model, and how to fight cheap China-made competitors and still make more profits.

Early bird registration is up to July 21.

All three executive bootcamps will be handled by Josiah Go, chair of five companies, bestselling author of 12 marketing books, and holds an executive certificate in strategy and innovation from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's MIT Sloan program. Go is an awarded business educator in the Philippines, pioneering in Market-Driving Strategy and Business Model Innovation. His dedication to lifelong education has also brought him to London Business School, Kellog and Wharton. Go was named one of the Ten Outstanding Young Men of the Philippines in 2001, and Ten Outstanding Young People of the World in 2002.

Take advantage of the early bird rates. For inquiries, call CL at (02) 580.8888, 0908 811 6666 or e-mail info@masmarte.net.

Cost management compels companies to undertake CSR activities

By Doris C. Dumlao

COST MANAGEMENT is a much bigger driving force behind most local businesses' corporate social responsibility (CSR) initiatives than brand-building or saving the planet, according to the Grant Thornton International Business Report.

The report provides insight into the views and expectations of business leaders from 39 economies. Among the respondents were 156 Filipino executives, who were asked about their CSR activities for the second time since the annual global survey first entered the scope in 2008.

This year, an overwhelming 81 percent of local business leaders said cost management was what compelled them to adhere to more ethical practices. The last figure was higher than the 76 percent recorded during the last survey in 2008.

This was followed by public attitude and brand building, with 64 percent of Filipino executives citing it as one of the drivers behind their CSR activities. This figure is likewise higher than the 49 percent seen in the previous survey.

The factor "saving the planet" fell in terms of relevance among respondents, with only 26 percent of international business leaders said they were motivated by their desire to preserve the natural environment. It was a 4-percentage point drop from that of 2008.

But in the Philippines, 76 percent of local business leaders cited "saving the planet" as an important driver.

"The numbers show us that more Filipino businesses are seeing the merits of CSR, and their shift towards more ethical business practices is being underscored to improve the bottomline; more specifically to drive costs down," said Marvic Espaldo, managing partner at PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC), one of the largest audit, tax and advisory firms in the country and a member firm of Grant Thornton International Ltd.

"It's also worth noting that public perception and brand building has gained significant traction as a true factor. It is up 15 percentage points from 2008. This tells us that more and more businesses recognize the ability of a strong CSR program to raise their profiles and make them stand out from the competition," Espaldo said.

The research looked into the types of CSR activities that businesses had undertaken in the past year.

Majority of local businesses focused their overall CSR efforts on employee well being; 94 percent actively promoted workforce health, while 93 percent worked on promoting diversity and equality in the workplace.

In terms of environmental initiatives, a significant proportion of local businesses—90 percent—sought ways to improve waste management; 49 percent looked at ways to improve energy efficiency.

"This is further proof that adopting sustainable, ethical practices and improving the bottomline don't have to be conflicting goals," Espaldo explained. "Even as these business leaders focus on managing their costs, they are able to roll out programs that positively impact the environment and benefit their employees."

Singapore's 'triple helix' strategy

IN THE mid-1990s, the Singaporean put together a strategy they called the "Triple Helix" strategy. It was a strategy that, in my understanding, intended to get three sectors of society to collaborate extensively and unobtrusively—business and industry, academia and government—in the way to start, grow and nurture a knowledge management system that would help propel Singapore to becoming a significant player in bio- and nano-technologies.

Government would establish the needed policy framework and rules of the roles and regulations that would foster the inception, growth and development of multi-sector joint ventures and investments in bio- and nano-tech.

Part of the government's share of the effort was the funding of many academic institutions, including the National University of Singapore, Nanyang Polytechnic University and Singapore Management University.

The best perks

All these had been backed by decades of investments in superior educational systems, starting from nursery to the university, and massive investments on the part of the universities in investing in doctoral students sent to the best universities overseas and in investments to research centers.

In recent days, as happens today paying members, professors and researchers a premium, and giving them the best perks to encourage them to stay, research and teach.

Singapore did that, as they had done so many times in the past, to anticipate future developments and the opportunities and challenges it would present. Singaporeans, it seems, accepted that they possessed certain "strengths" and certain "weaknesses." But they did not accept these as "givens." Instead, they examined what their traits, their knowledge, their abilities and capabilities are as a people, and how these would help or hinder them from being the future productively, successfully.

They examined most closely those traits and characteristics that would prove disabling, and proceeded to reinvent themselves so that they could meet the future and succeed.

The proof of this strategy of anticipating the future, creating alternative scenarios, assessing which one was most likely to emerge, setting signposts to guide actions, inviting the mind to be innovative, and then, if necessary, too, not 100 percent certain, pursuing the initiatives with vigor and dispatch, has been the mark of Singapore's consciousness, if not always smooth, success.

There is Singapore International Airlines and its constant innovating, constant reinvention of itself to remain one of the best if not the best airline in the world. Its with Changi International Airport and its constant reinvention also to ensure it remains the best or at least one of the top airports worldwide. Services blend luxury and sense of the ever evolving tastes of customers are all intended to ensure that Singapore, as dependent on trade and tourism, remains a destination of choice for investors and tourists.

Sacrifices

Now, the different universities with their constantly improved and updated curricula and subject syllabi, are poised to make Singapore a regional, if not yet an international, knowledge and education hub.

To be sure, there are many sacrifices the Singaporeans pay, including curtailing a number of individual freedoms we Filipinos so fondly cherish. That produces an atmosphere I have heard a number of Singaporeans describe as "too boring." I would like to

MAPping THE FUTURE

Marvin Andrew G. Cabiso

know that he is hard at work, attempting to solve the problems of the nation in collaboration with the stakeholders; that he spends time talking to people from all walks of life in all parts of the country to get first-hand feedback on what has to be done to move our country forward.

Draconian changes

I would like him to not just talk about the "stimulus pack" but set just positively to do so every day.

Although Singapore's "Triple Helix" strategy will require draconian changes in the way we conceive of life and the way we do things, it will require new sets of values, the kind of values that are clearly needed in walking the straight path—openness, transparency, being outward-oriented looking, integrity, accountability and a concern for the whole rather than just elements of the whole. If he and his team do these, he may just fulfill his campaign promise in a much better way—"PALAUSO MAGBAGO AT ANG KORAP!"

(The author reflects the personal opinion of the author and does not reflect the official stand of the Management Association of the Philippines. The author is a professor of the Asian Institute of Management. Feedback is welcome. Please e-mail him at mcabiso@aim.edu.ph.)

BPI wins award for the Leading Counter-party Bank in the Philippines in 2010

THE BANK of the Philippine Islands (BPI) won the award for Leading Counter-party Bank in the Philippines for 2010. The bank received the awards at The Asian Banker Annual Leadership and Achievement Awards Gala Dinner, held in conjunction with The Asian Banker Summit, the region's largest annual meeting of decision makers and senior professionals in the financial services industry and the foremost forum for engaging on global thematic bringing together global thought leaders and industry specialists. The ceremony was held at the JW Marriott in Hong Kong on April 5.

The Asian Banker Achievement Awards for Transaction Banking 2011 honor the achievements of leading global and domestic banks in the transaction banking business. The transaction banking awards have been designed to cover the arena of cash management, trade finance, payments and receivables/ payables relationships. With many businesses moving across geographical borders and developing a network of global suppliers and customers, banks have intensified their efforts to provide real-in and cash-and liquidity management solutions spanning multiple geographies.

As part of the evaluation process, the ability of banks to provide efficient, automated and tailor-made solutions for customers through their product and service offerings was assessed. International and domestic banks were assessed on a balanced scorecard approach that includes value of franchise, infrastructure capabilities, financial performance, depth and scope of products and services, efficiency in operations and technology and risk/function capabilities.

The assessment also used a perception survey of leading international and domestic corporate treasurers and regional and global deals that banks designed for their clients as the banks among who how this service added value to the customer's cash management or trade finance businesses.

One of the findings extracted from these assessments is one of the international banks was the leading Counter-party Bank of choice in each country, based on the number of counter-party arrangements they had, the number of deals they have enabled on liquidity and the number of signed joint product development agreements.

These information that the international banks gave were corroborated with the credit rating of the banks identified, as well as the survey's own findings in terms of the banks' transaction banking infrastructure capability and financial standing according to the Categorized Banks ranking, paving the way for that would qualify for the recognition for "The Leading Counter-party Bank" for each country.

Above 110 senior bankers from award-winning banks in 11 countries across the Asia Pacific, the Middle East, Central Asia and Africa attended the glittering event that recognizes their efforts in bringing superior transactions banking products and services to their customers. The awards presentation, administered by The Asian Banker and enhanced by personalized global banking research and academics, is the most prestigious of its kind.

A combination of highly sound risk management policies, minimal exposure to the global financial crisis and a well-diversified portfolio has enabled BPI to record impressive results in 2010. A global network of leading international banks have recognized BPI as their preferred correspondent bank for financial and fund transfer services to/from the Philippines. Through this process, BPI has also managed to strengthen its multi-country relationships.

BPI is one of few banks in Asia that has attained a rating of AA- by Fitch, an impressive jump from Fitch's assessment of BBB+ a year ago. This has enabled BPI to gain a large transaction banking following in comparison to its local competitors.

XENICAL CLUB NEW YOU MEDIA LAUNCH

Xenical recently launched its Club New You campaign designed to give overweight and obese individuals a head start in weight goals and their healthier life. It provides the latest tools for weight management complemented by a comprehensive program, diet, and health consultants who will track and review progress and motivate clients to sustain achieved results. Members of Club New You will enjoy participate in various games, relaxation rooms, and special celebrations on exclusive days. Members will also receive a free weight scale, a free one-month membership to Fitness First, and a free copy of the Xenical Cookbook. And if you register and activate your membership before July 15, you will get a free one-week Xenical quota. Photo shows (from left): Gabby Concepcion, Xenical brand manager; FMSR TV personality Bianca Manalo; DJ Pauric Hoche general manager; and Jules Pacheco, Roche OTC sales and marketing manager, during the media launch.

140 FILIPINO SMOKERS DIE EVERY DAY, SAYS DOH

The Department of Health (DOH) joined hands with Health Justice and Rural Missionaries of the Philippines to urge smokers to quit smoking now for just one day in celebration of the World No Tobacco Day, June 31.

Dr. Enrique Tayag, DOH undersecretary, and Health Secretary Enrique Ona lead the anti-smoking campaign. Photo shown above with DOH Assistant Secretary Eric Tayag, Health Promotion and Communications Service director Dr. Lulu Bravo, Health Justice Philippines executive director Anthony Leachon, Rural Missionaries of the Philippines executive director Fr. Edwin Gariguez, and Health Secretary Enrique Ona.

ASIANLIFE OPENS PRIMARY CORPORATE MEDICAL CLINIC AT ST. LUKE'S GLOBAL CITY

Samuel Dalrymple, Patricia Gonzalez-Dy, Patricia Lucsanto, Bianca J. Lucsanto, MD, shown at the executive vice president for group insurance division Manuel M. Alfonso, SGHC-GI vice president for strategic marketing and corporate affairs division Jerry Santiago, Asianlife president and CEO Rodrigo R. Villaroman, SGHC-GI chairman and president for industry relations and special projects Josephine Cabrera-Aguilar, Congressman Reynaldo Maximiano, and Roland Jr. cinco chair Manuel N. Tordesillas.

TRIBUTE TO A PAST DEAN

The Consular Corps of the Philippines gave special recognition recently to Ruth Hennessy Gonzalez, George Washington's 10th Wife, on her birthday. Schutz is a founding member and a 3-term dean of the 28-year old association of career and honorary consuls in the Philippines.

Shown holding a toast to his good health are (from left) Estonia Honorary Consul General George Yang, Israel Honorary Consul General Ofir Akunis, Liechtenstein Consul General Ralph Wilson, Associate Dean of the Corps

SIZZLIN' PEPPER STEAK OPENS AT NEWPORT MALL

Under Pepper Steak's first convened meeting of Resorts World Manila, Pasay City opened April 26. Present during the opening and blessing ceremonies were the franchise partners (from left): Mario Montinola Jr., Lloyd Montinola, Edwin Agustin, Anna Lisa Agustin and Fabian Montinola.

Also present were Resorts World Manila President Manuel "Moy" Builos Pepper Steak is a unique and modern Japanese steakhouse dining where sizzling hot steaks, pepper rice and hamburger are served on a hot plate partnered with their own secret, scrumptiously yum steak, your choice!

Yamaha hosts Run for Heroes

YAMAHA MOTOR Philippines Inc. (YMPH) steps out for charity with a company initiated run for the cause of children's education.

The project, dubbed as "Yamaha Run for Heroes," aims to raise funds for Bona Fide Canteen – an Ayala Group initiative which provides subsistence support for children of soldiers from the Armed Forces of the Philippines who have died or permanently incapacitated in the line of duty.

"Soldiers will freely offer their lives for the preservation of this country, but their deaths would definitely shatter their children's dreams of a bright future. Education is a big help in those kids. This is our chance to help," YMPH president Takeshi Sano said.

Interested runners and motorcycle enthusiasts, families and friends, the run is sure to provide a great opportunity for everyone to have fun and raise money for an important cause. The first annual installment will be held July 3 at Bonifacio Global City, Taguig.

Advance runner registration is required and early registration is recommended for the event. Participants may choose to run in the 3K, 5K, 10K or 21K race categories – all of which take runners along the scenic BGC landscape.

For more event information, race rules and a complete list of sponsors, please visit www.yamaha-motor.com.ph or www.runthis.com.

Res | Toe | Run opens new 'shoetopia' in Ayala Davao

A WHOLE new shoe shopping experience unfolds in the south as Res | Toe | Run, the country's first and only sneakerama inspired shoetopia, opens a new outlet in Ayala Abreeza in Davao. Located at the 2nd level of the mall, the outlet – which joins Res | Toe | Run's 11 other stores in Metro Manila – is filled to bursting densities and stylish hot sneaks interiors. Sneakerhead shoeaholics who will definitely admire the shop's clever interpretation of earth-friendly, reusable materials in its store concepts.

A very promising retail shop that fulfills brand awareness people's vast cravings for sneakers shoes, the selection for the Davao store are plentiful and intended for a large, diverse customer, such as families. "This place definitely has something for everyone," says brand manager Joy Sacata.

Embracing the company's clever balance of passionate love for shoes and keen appetite to serve shoe fans of all ages, the uniquely fun shoetopia for the family will be home to an even more extensive line of multi-branded footwear selections, each assured of meeting the stringent comfort and trendy requisites of even the choosiest sneaker fashionistas. Among those very must-have brands are Global, Reef, Columbia, Rocafella, DC, Fitflop, Rockers, Sanuk, Skechers, Converse, The North Face, Steelheels, Native, Insteps, Ellesse, Quicksilvers and Roxy.

Res | Toe | Run is managed by Primer Group of Companies. Apart from the new boutique in Ayala Davao, Res | Toe | Run has other stores nationwide located at Ayala Fairview, Robinsons Galleria, Robinsons Ermita, Gateway Mall, Ayala Cebu, Ayala Marquee Mall, Ayala Cebu, Robinsons Iloilo, Robinsons Dumaguete, Robinsons Cauayan, Marina Square, Naga and Koronadal.

Shoetopia Davao, Robinsons Dumaguete, Robinsons Cauayan, Marina Square, Naga and Koronadal.

Legaspi City is also serious customers enough to online hangup to Shoetopia and Res | Toe | Run.

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Product Files

Be on top of your child's health these rainy days

JUNE MARKS the start of the rainy season. Classes open and your children will be one of the more than 20 million students braving the rains and the traffic. Double whammy for the parents. When they are sick. The kids are susceptible to all kinds of affliction like colds, cough, sore throats, tummy aches, constipation and flu. So it helps to fortify their immune system 24x7 by giving them a well-balanced diet of healthy food and beverages. But saying this is easier than doing it, especially if you have children who hate vegetables and rainy days are the height of medicines. Admittedly, many medications and health drinks have that "funny" aftertaste experienced by adults and children. Thankfully, there's Cosy Plus now wheatgrass with Honey which is easy to consume by mixing the powder with cold water. Rinse the powder leaving traces of wheatgrass powder, called calcium, nutrition-wise, that children's taste buds will readily relish. Mothers can combine the drink with fruits like banana or pineapple. Or they can even blend it into shakes and smoothies. One sachet is equivalent to one tide of the steamed vegetables. As an added boost to your children's health, give them Cosy Plus Wheatgrass every day. The wheatgrass contains potent concentrate which stimulates children's muscle growth and enhances their memory system or their ability to fight germs. The powder and the chocolates are made from both the leaves and roots of the wheatgrass plant which is a life-sustaining complete food that has the right amount of nutrients and more than 100 types of enzymes that revitalize the cells in the body. A major component of the plant is chlorophyll. The basis of all plant life "alive, absorbed by the body, wheatgrass helps produce fresh blood which carries oxygen to every cell, thus energizing the entire body and helping the body's ability to fight off disease. Cancer cells cannot thrive in an alkaline environment. Before the rapid symptoms come, the healthiest environment you can give your children is a well-balanced diet topped off with daily intakes of Cosy Plus wheatgrass with Honey and Wheat-gro Chocolates. It's a rich, processed organic way to supplement nutrition, and properly taken, they also help combat the weakness in major drug problems addressed by Marcos Drug Abusers, Youth Rise Drug Rehabilitation Centers Manila and cities across them.

Dare say 'I am who I am!' with Penshoppe's new scents

PENSHOPPE (1822 Stores), for 25 years, a youth-centered casual clothing brand, has been a trendsetter in the Philippines with over 300 stores as of today. It has now evolved into a sophisticated casual clothing brand but still maintains the high-spirited essence of the young. And now, Penshoppe has captured countless adventurous and individuality in a bottle! Be rough, be tough, be sexy, be bold. But be uniquely unique. Penshoppe introduces Acquabella, the newest fragrance collection ideal for the big and modern women. These chic and self-defining scents summon every young woman's active and trendy lifestyle.

Back-to-school fashion at urbanAthletics

FAST FORWARD fashion retailer is proud to announce that he or she is headed and what he or she is up to, which makes up a good part of your wardrobe. Light, breezy and comfortable are the trends to be seen in every different ways. It's to each his own, no matter what others may say. This attitude is all about being young and making a statement, which urbanAthletics' SM-wonderbrands and supports, as it makes available plenty of attitude with a lot of style, and lets the youth rule the streets. To help their choices, the youth also look to current fashion trends. They can, for example, wear jeans right tank or the classic – and always in fashion – white shirt. The "Do is guaranteed to look cool. Get trendy outlines at UA, with its range of stylish, comfortable, and back-to-school gear that will allow you to rule the streets. UA Zero into the spring between sports and street wear brands like Addidas Originals, Nike Sportswear, Vans, Doc York, Puma, Mare Fabs, DC, Reebok, Hayday, Levelads, Converse, Junkie, Manhattan Portage, Smith Optics and more. The utterly contemporary fashion phenomenon comes alive at UA, which achieves a cutting-edge sensibility that infuses attitude with style. It gives any beyond setting school, bags, accessories and alternatives wear. It offers a lifestyle that combines passion and performance. The most extensive selection among by the SM store and the 2nd floor of Ismedcall 3, or call 309 2274. Visit http://www.urbanathletics.com.ph or search for urban athletics on facebook or twitter to catch the latest updates on SM gear.

More than fish and seafood at Fish & Co

READ IS more to Fish & Co than meets the eye. The restaurant that has served cuisine to food fans the "longer" menu for the past couple of years is now serving a variety of scrumptious meal dishes as well. It offers the "best of both worlds" – the goodness of land and the freshness of the sea – to satisfy the cravings of both fish and meat lovers. And now available at all its branches is a new and delightful combination called "Bar Beef Richard Ribs" platter priced starting at P180. The dish contains three signature Fish and Chips and three mouth-watering Baby Back Pork Ribs – drizzling their flavors and satisfying the appetite of any hungry customer. Fish & Co is now also serving a variety of sandwiches, such as the Fish & Cutlet Sandwich and Beef Sandwich, which are sure to be a perfect lunch. Meanwhile, merienda or midnight is not spared, as Fish & Co has a variety of delicious desserts to offer. Whether you're craving cake or dessert or a group, "Bar Beef Fish and Ribs" servings are tailored-fit to suit your preference and occasion. Dine-in at Fish & Co at Eastwood Mall, Libis and Ayala Fairview Terraces or Fish & Co at Greenbelt 3, Makati. Call them at 729-3102; Shangri-La Plaza Mall, Mandaluyong; and Fish & Co at Ayala Center Cebu, Cebu City. Call them at 416-0105; and Alabang Town Center, Muntinlupa City. Call them at 809-0975.

IN THIS ISSUE

■ **Benito Legarda Jr.** remembers 'Anding' Roces /E4

LIFESTYLE

Editor Thelma Noveno San Juan

THE GENERICS PHARMACY
THE BIGGEST DRUGSTORE CHAIN
1100 BRANCHES NATIONWIDE

WHAT'S INSIDE

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The truth about Rizal's 'poor' grades in UST

By Regalado Trota Jose
Correspondent

Editor's note: Below are excerpts from the 145th Discurso de Apertura (Opening Lecture) to welcome the new academic year of the 400-year-old University of Santo Tomas last June 6 at the UST Auditorium (Leandro Cheruh). The lecture, 'Rare-book Flashback: The Archives and the History of the University (of Santo Tomas),' was delivered by Regalado Trota Jose, UST archivist and administrator of the Miguel de Benavides Library and the Archives.

In his presentation, Jose paid tribute to his predecessor in the UST Archives, the Spanish Dominican Raimundo de Palacios OP, himself, who labored in the archives and systematized its collection for 36 years and wrote a massive multi-volume history of UST which will be published this year to mark the quadricentenary of Asia's oldest university.

Jose also showed documents from the archives to clarify certain episodes in UST history and correct a number of misconceptions, such as the alleged mistreatment that national hero José Rizal received from the Dominicans as supposedly gleaned from his poor grades he got as a UST student.

UST archivist and NHCCA Commissioner Regalado Trota Jose shows a Powerpoint presentation of Rizal's grades from the UST Archives.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY ROMEO LAZARO JR.

Most biographers of Rizal paint a bleak picture of his stay at UST. An examination of the records at the UST Archives, however, presents a more balanced view

THE UST Archives is one of the least known, least visited, and most quietest places in the university. It is one of the least known, yet it contains the very soul of the university, the documents accumulated through 400 years that bear witness to UST's history.

It is one of the least visited because, somehow, few people are interested in researching on the past. It is one of the quietest places in school because those who come here—a significant number of whom are foreigners—work as if in a trance as they study dozen heads on their various research projects.

Indeed, the archives, with its wealth of material documenting social networks and its accumulation of yearbooks and memorabilia, is yesterday's equivalent to today's Facebook.

The archives continues to accumulate files, yearbooks and documents, so like FB it is continually updated. At the same time, it allows the visitor to borrow into the past, whether it be the recent quadricentennial events or the purchase of land for the initial Colegio into 400 years ago.

My task this morning is to present to the UST community a history of its alma mater lovingly prepared by no less than its archivist of 36 years, Fr. Fidel Villarroel, OP. In some stacks of Providence, Fr. Fidel spoke at this same podium at the opening of school year 1971-1972, honoring our ol' UST's finest alumni, Fr. José Burgos. Now, exactly 40 years later, he is the one being honored.

SPANISH Dominican historian Fr. Fidel Villarroel, archivist of UST for half a century

UST Rector Magnificus Fr. Rolando V. de la Rosa, OP, leads the traditional Mass at the Holy Spirit last June 6 to open the new academic year of Asia's oldest university.

Tabulation of grades

From the restrained filing boxes and bookshelves of the archives, Fr. Fidel has produced a comprehensive history comprised of eight books divided into five volumes and two appendices. The timing is now being edited and we hope it will be published within the year.

No, I will not reduce 400 years of history into 10 minutes. That is for all of us to read and savor later. Instead, I thought it best to present four sections from Fr. Fidel's history....

The four sections I will present deal with: 1) the role students in the 1770s; 2) the title "Royal"; 3) Rizal's grades in UST; and 4) the university church where we are gathered.

Most biographers of Rizal paint a bleak picture of his stay at UST. An examination of the records at the archives, however, presents a more balanced view. All of this has been presented by Fr. Fidel Villarroel, OP, in his book 'Rare Records of the University of Santo Tomas' (1984), with no doubt more rewarding detail and content. Here I will just present a tabulation of his grades.

Grades of Rizal in UST (1877-1892)
Preparatory Course of Theology and Law (1877-1878)

Cosmology—Aristocratism (Excellent; equivalent grade: 1.00)
Metaphysics—Aristocratism (Excellent: 1.0)
Theodicy—Aristocratism (Excellent: 1.0)
History of Philosophy—Aristocratism (Excellent: 1.0)

Preparatory Course of Medicine (1878-1879)

Advanced Physics—Aprovechado (Very Good: 1.5)
Advanced Chemistry—Aprovechado (Excellent: 1.0)
Advanced Natural History—Aprovechado (Very Good: 1.5)

1st Year of Medicine (1878-1879)

Note: Rizal was one of four allowed out of 20 to take these courses simultaneously with those above, which was highly irregular, but a reveals the Dominicans' recognition of their students' intellectual superiorities.

General Anatomy and Histology—Bueno (Good: 2.0)
Descriptive Anatomy...Bueno (Good: 2.0)
Exercises of Dissection—Bueno (Good: 2.0)
Physiology, Private and Public Hygiene...Bueno (Good: 2.0)

3rd Year of Medicine (1880-1881)

General Pathology, In Clinic and Pathologic Histology—Aprobado (Passed: 3.0)
Therapeutics, Medical Matter and Art of Prescribing...Sobresaliente (Excellent: 1.0)
Surgical Anatomy, Operations, Internal Medical applications and Bandages...Bueno (Good: 2.0)

4th Year of Medicine (1881-1882)

Medical Pathology...Notable (Very Good: 1.5)
Surgical Pathology—Notable (Very Good: 1.5)
Obstetrics, Sicknesses of Women and Children—Notable (Very Good: 1.5)
Ophthalmology—Notable (Very Good: 1.5)

Rizal not discriminated against

Summing up, to the 21 subjects taken in the university, Rizal obtained six Sobresalientes or Excellent, six Notable or Aprovechados or Very Good, eight Buenos or Good, and one Aprobado or Passing Grade. On the basis of these records, Fr. Fidel poses the following seven considerations:

1) Rizal was a good student, above average, though not excellent; his sense of his classmates were excellent either Rizal was not as gifted for Medicine as he was for the Letters and Arts.

2) In Madrid, his medical grades were the same or a little lower.

3) He is not on record as having ever complained about his grades in Santo Tomas, while he did complain about those he received in Madrid.

4) He was never discriminated against in Santo Tomas. On the contrary, he was favored with a dispensation which few students received.

5) Racial discrimination did not exist in his class, as shown by the fact that all his Spanish classmates bill by the roadside one by one in the course of four years.

6) In the fourth and last year in Santo Tomas, only seven students remained out of the original batch of 161, and Rizal was one of them.

7) And he ended that year in second place.

We then went examine the motives and methodology of those other Rizal scholars to understand why they never archivist.

Descriptive Anatomy...Bueno (Good: 2.0)
Exercises of Osteology and Dissection—Bueno (Good: 2.0)

2nd Year of Medicine (1879-1880)

General Anatomy and Histology II...Bueno (Good: 2.0)
Descriptive Anatomy II—Bueno (Good: 2.0)
Exercises of Dissection—Bueno (Good: 2.0)
Physiology, Private and Public Hygiene...Bueno (Good: 2.0)

3rd Year of Medicine (1880-1881)

General Pathology, In Clinic and Pathologic Histology—Aprobado (Passed: 3.0)
Therapeutics, Medical Matter and Art of Prescribing...Sobresaliente (Excellent: 1.0)
Surgical Anatomy, Operations, Internal Medical applications and Bandages...Bueno (Good: 2.0)

4th Year of Medicine (1881-1882)

Medical Pathology...Notable (Very Good: 1.5)
Surgical Pathology—Notable (Very Good: 1.5)
Obstetrics, Sicknesses of Women and Children—Notable (Very Good: 1.5)
Ophthalmology—Notable (Very Good: 1.5)

Outdoor art-banner exhibits in QC, Makati, Baguio pay tribute to Rizal

Text and photos by Junio de los Reyes
Contributor

MORE ON its third year, The Center for Art, New Ventures & Sustainable Development (Canvas) presents the "Looking for Juan" Outdoor Banner Project in celebration of José Rizal's 150th anniversary.

The exhibition is aptly titled "Relevant Rizal."

Twenty artists have joined this year's project. The original works on display at Bonifacio Museum are expressions of the artists' views and thoughts on the inspirations and relevance of Rizal today. Together with each artist's brief statement, the images are printed on tarpaulin and displayed as banners around the UP Academic Oval, the pedestrian underpasses along Legaspi, Sedeño and Salcedo in the city of Makati, and the garden of Ayuntamiento Museum in Baguio City.

The three venues in Makati carry sub-themes "Remembering Rizal," "Reliving Rizal" and "Reviewing Rizal."

"As we commemorate the 150th birthday of our national hero, we invite the viewers to contemplate on our walk, bike or drive around the magnificent tree-lined Oval of the University of the People or walk through the underpasses in Makati and in the gardens of Bonifacio Museum, its contemporaries and reflect on what his life, words and sacrifice mean to all of us, as Filipinos," said Ugo Adempaj, executive director of Canvas.

From Rizal depicted as a glaring cool icon, one of many superheroes, to McDonald's romance, the exhibition offers a variety of renditions that shall surely delight enthusiasts.

Participating artists are Leonard Aguinaldo, Aldy Aguirre, Daniel Alquros, Reynaldo Antolo, Jojo Antolo, Mark Arcasio, Anton Balao, Jojo Ballo, Zeus Basaron, Yvonne Belen, Joe Bernal, Johann Bitanyeng, Pho Bolipata, Jaime Bolota, Sergio Bumatay III, National Artist Ben "Benedicto" Cabrera, Michael Cacnio, Xander Cabrera, Boots Calabazaris, Rolf Campos, Boots Capule, Jed Cantay, Salvador Cheng, Merlin Contemplacion, Tammy Cuquillo, Bernard de Leon, Anton del Castillo, Audrey del Rosario, Daniel de la Cruz, Tomas Dagoming, Chloe Delfino, Ronald Dandoro, Mona Soliveres-Espiritu, Lisa Flores, Garapata, Alec Garibay, Mark Justiniani, Cathy Lanot, Frank Lesaca, Raymond Lupiga, Dante Lorena, Dave Lock, Agung Magnolia, Mario Manlapaz, MV Manalo, Ned Morada, Ferdie Montemayor, Noel Obsania, Archie Oclet, Jun Orencio, Jay Ocampo, Raphael Pagarigan, Anthony Palomar, Jill Arroyo Penales, Oreo Reyes, Henry Rosales, Kidlat Rosales, Adelaida Ruiz, Jerico Samaco, Julius Santiago, Adie Santos, Pam Tan Santos, Brendale Sabico, CJ Salcedo, Ray Sarmiento, Amelie Tejido, AJ Tolentino, Alandro Torres, Jhun Dave Tolas, Franklin Cello Valencia, Wesley Velasco de los Santos and Nestor Villar.

At the end of the outdoor banner exhibition, the tarpaulins will be recycled into one-of-a-kind functional art tote bags which will be sold to benefit selected charities, as well as other cultural and environmental projects of Canvas.

"Relevant Rizal": The 2011 'Looking for Juan Outdoor Banner Project" is co-presented by the National Commission on Culture and the Arts.

For more information, text or call 09.17.6000.167; e-mail info@canvas.ph; visit www.lookingforjuan.com

"INVITATION of Christ," by Jervan Ramones

"KING PROPITIOUSNESS," by Sergio Bumatay III

"LA ULTIMA Batalla," by Leonard Aguinaldo

BANNERS at Bonifacio Museum

"[CJSS]," by Noel Obsania

"PANINDIA Rizal," by Danny Casipit

Programs at CCP venues mark Rizal birthday

THE LISTS (sic) anniversary of our national hero, José Rizal will be marked on June 19. That is why the Cultural Center of the Philippines, National Historical Commission of the Philippines, National Commission for Culture and the Arts, Tanghalang Pilipino, Philippine Center for Gifted Education and Association of Major Religious Superiors of the Philippines will hold a special event called 'José, ang Pinoy ideal?' to be held in various venues at the CCP June 14-17.

One of the highlights of the program is the earth-raking of 35 Filipino Youth Achievers known as Mga Makabayang Kasli-Pag-asa ng Bayan. Kinsliterously, an exhibition of selected films, visual arts, books and video will also be presented.

Meanwhile, the special program "20 ang Gig ni Pilar!" will be inaugurated June 17, 4 p.m. at the CCP Main Theater. The program will feature over a thousand artists led by the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra, CCP resident companies and other performing groups with special participation of popular TV/film artists.

EL DIA Espanol is a celebration of Spanish language and heritage around the world.

El Dia Español pays tribute to Rizal, beauty of Spanish language and culture

Instituto Cervantes de Manila is seeking 150 readers to recite 'Mi Ultimo Adios'

By Angelica Ramores
Correspondent

IINSTITUTO de Cervantes Manila will highlight the 150th birth anniversary of Jose Rizal when it ingles celebrations International Spanish Day (El Dia Español) on June 16.

Taking into account the much-wide cultural ties of the national hero to both Spain and the Philippines, Instituto Cervantes will give tribute to Rizal by hosting the very first and largest Spanish choral reading of the hero's last work, "Mi Ultimo Adios" (My Last Farewell).

The Spanish language and culture center is looking for 150 readers, who will recite the the stanzas of the poem in its original Spanish version, together with Instituto Cervantes director Jose Rodriguez.

"One of the main activities and attractions will be Rizal," said Rodriguez during a press conference. "I just wanted to get something (for all of) you from the 'Mi Ultimo Adios.'"

Right after the choral reading, 150 balloons, each containing a

INSTITUTO Cervantes director Jose Rodriguez

stanza from Rizal's poem, will be released in the sea.

Rodriguez explained the relevance of the ceremony. It is, he said, to make sure that references the late hero are not lost and whomever's hands they may drop, the hero's words will be seen.

"Whenever it explodes, wherever it is, they can keep that one stanza of Dr. Jose Rizal," he said.

Rodriguez also promised a festive, vibrant and fun-to-like celebration. The focus will serve tradition and Hispanic culture.

Guests can release the time in bed in their through to their Spanish or Spanish on the painted walls of the school's circle.

Small contests and vocal games such as Pictionary de Palabras ("word hunt"), Pasapalabras (from a word), and El Juego del Español, a crossword game intended for the first, will also become part of the celebration.

Highlight of the event is the ramble contest during. The contest, which will be timed at exactly 10:00 a.m., will contain Spanish words and context. The winner can also enjoy the meals and milk vouchers in the celebration.

Rodriguez emphasized the importance of "respecting and embracing history" and for encounters to the historical "love story" between Spain and the Philippines.

"[We must be] proud of our culture ... in [culture] as connecting between languages," he said.

Third time

It will be the third year to a row that El Dia Español will be celebrated.

El Dia is celebrated on the June date to mark the summer solstice. In-

(MLE, C4

STANDING on a pier, a family fishes and enjoys the peaceful calm of the lake.

COMMUNITY involvement to ensure environmental sustainability maintains ecological balance in Bulusan Volcano Natural Park

PROTECTED forest cover big enough to shape a big portion Bulusan Lake.

Bulusan natural park: A conservation success story

THERE ARE many conservation success stories in the Philippines. Most of them are unknown. Bulusan Volcano Natural Park in Sorsogon is one of these unknowns.

The natural park in south central Sorsogon province is a 3,477.5 ha nationally protected rainforest surrounding Mt. Bulusan.

Designated a National Park in 1933 and now under the protection of the DENR Protected Areas and Wildlife Bureau, it is a lush forest and wildlife sanctuary reserve that features, aside from the volcano itself, Bulusan Lake, two other mountain formations known as Sharp Peak and Homabaan, and Lake Jagupit.

Bulusan Volcano, formed about 40,000 years before the present era, soars 1,565 meters high over a base diameter of 15 km. Its cracked profile, deep ravines and caves are the result of gradual buildup of successive lava eruptions over the ages.

Mt. Bulusan has four craters and four hot springs. Crater No. 1, 30 meters in diameter and 35 meters deep, is named Blackbird Lake after the blackbirds that have made the lake their home. Crater No. 2 is oval in shape, 60 meters by 30 meters and just as deep. Crater No. 3 is the largest and deepest, about 90 m in diameter and 28 m deep. Crater No. 4, near the northeastern rim, opened during the 1965 eruption.

A substantial area of protected forest remains around the peak and slopes, including secondary growth, freshwater lakes and pools which are is the water source for several communities and provide irrigation for surrounding agricultural land.

The forest provides natural protection from calamities such as typhoons and flash floods. It is home to fauna like the Philippine leaf monkey, monitor lizards, various endemic frogs, snakes and other reptiles. Some say that once there were deer but none has been sighted since the 1980s.

Community involvement

Within the protected area are small settlements, rural gardens, abandoned farm land and ground disturbed by illegal farming which is banned within the declared boundaries of a National Park.

PRIDE OF PLACE

Augusto F. Villalon

The park supports the needs of its communities through its forest products, watershed and recreational values. Residents the lower slopes as agricultural land.

Overseeing at Bulusan is the charge in attitude by the local community, which now looks at its natural heritage as its source of livelihood instead of savaging it for short-term gains as they did in the past.

A change in attitude like that certainly could not have happened overnight. The Aggregation of Advocates for Environmental Protection Bulusan (Agap) is the determined NGO composed of local nature advocates organized to effect change through involving the resident community in conserving rather than ravaging their natural heritage.

Its stop forest devastation from illegal farming, employment was generated for local residents, partly through an internationally funded forest preservation program which hired locals for forest dozen-seven guards, and replanting of trees in degraded areas.

Others received training to provide tourist services as trekking guides, masseurs, shop keepers. Local cuisine and crafts revival produced products resell to tourists.

The simple strategy of Agap was to involve the resident community in nature-based activities that generated income which in turn led to the community's renewed respect for the environment since it provided human economics. It is one of the success stories of how heritage, whether natural or cultural, is protected by locals because it is a non-renewable source of their income.

Tourism is a major source of income for Bulusan. Agap offers mountain treks of varying lengths and difficulty; manages hiking and mountaineering kayak activities on the mountain lakes; and operates a visitor center with restaurant and lounge facilities.

Bulusan Volcano is now on alert, causing a drastic drop in tourism arrivals. However, what is not reported in the media is that the tourist activity area within the park is well outside the 4-km danger radius, still perfectly safe for tourists.

Going to Bulusan

We went to Bulusan early on a crisp morning, barely a week after the fall of the first lahar rains. My choice from Legazpi toward the Bicolandia border with Mount Mayon in full view, a view of wilderness appearing one after another, a memorable sight.

As the landscape changed from urban to rural, rainwater-gutted earth gave way to the intense green of the fields. Water filled rice paddies ready for planting reflected the early morning sunlight, a mosaic extending all the way to the distant shoreline in geometric precision, exactly the kind of tropical landscape expected of the Philippines.

Practically all highways in the region skirt the ground shapes of volcanoes that stretches southward from Camarines Norte to Sorsogon. They are majestic natural landmarks that dominate and give unmistakable character to the remarkable fixed landscape.

To get to Bulusan Volcano Natural Park from Sorsogon City, one option is to take the Bicolandia Highway in the town of Irosin, passing through the towns of Castilla and Juban. Another option is the scenic route overlooking San Bernardino Straits with the Pacific Ocean beyond, passing the towns of Gubat, Barcelona until the town of Sta. Magdalena, which will have a handful of surviving but decaying heritage structures.

The Visitor Center at the park is everything an environmentally sensitive structure should not have. It is a concrete structure whose green are guarded by chainlink-type, solid concrete paves the parking lot.

A bigger-than-life size statue of the blessed Virgin, out of place in the pristine natural setting of Bulusan Lake from where shores the green forest crash upward to the majestic volcano slopes. That, together with the stillness and one's intimate union with nature at Bulusan, is testimony enough to the greatness of the Divine.

E-mail the author at pride.place@gmail.com.

"Anytime you want to read that Colgate and Rose Shield is good, you can read it on Gladys' face," Rose Shield's brand ambassador for the year 2010 Colgate Communications Manager Ms. Veronica Hernandez said.

Gladys' stand is understandable, as any celebrity endorsement is based on the quality of the product and Hernandez and Communications Manager Ms. Cherrie Atilano.

When my children started out brushing with Colgate, I was totally convinced," her added. Unbelievable quality that remains in the sheet and taste of cosmetic is different and tempting. Ayaw talaga nila ang amoy ng toothpaste. Ngayon, kapag nakita nila ang Colgate, they're the ones who ask me to buy it," Gladys' weight dropped. Even the cheeks no sound-ng... round but staying light. That's when I realized the true value of rich — especially pure as high fiber.

Gladys's Pediatrician immediately advised her on her other grooming-up with hormones. "We drink DROSI and Chocolate-flavored drink that helps me to gain weight," commented Gladys beaming. "That he could retain the process of DROSI a day together with a healthy diet. The shakes are full and round again."

When at the grocery, Gladys meticulously checks the content of her purchases. "I don't forget take a lot," she stated. "If calcium on my long Fibre on my milk, take note important ingredients for growing children. Unlike processing supplements any pigment or high grade sweet, so I look for to avoid short formula with soft fluoride."

Take it from the mom of three: "When you're ready to settle to husband and, now to motherhood take measures of kid-friendly any DROSI that especially, advantages to be well long Fibre-rich. So when known hemoglobin raising nagging hormones, don't waking-time days no difficult."

"Kung meron nang kids can't metabolize, so as ang dose of dapat kinagat as nanay, which is why I make it point to attend to all my kids' meals. I do all working moms. Time management is always a challenge so tips is to adopt a balance and often it means making tough choices and priority calls."

"Big thing is nutrition. I will not compromise anything less than the very best. A healthy childhood is the foundation for long-term health. We don't take any risk on this. Doesn't for every mom is to see their children grow up well and achieve their dreams. ... So, starting young pa lang — I give them the best I can to help their BRAIN with an Edge!" concludes the TV's Primera Kumadrona.

El Dia Español pays tribute . . .

from page C1

winner Cervantes de Manila... along with other 37 IC centers worldwide—will open doors to the public and mingle and simultaneously take part in the grand celebration that promotes awareness about the importance of Spanish language and heritage.

"Over the past two years, all Instituto Cervantes centers across five continents, from Manila in Madrid to the Rio de Janeiro, have celebrated the richness of our language and our cultures on this day," said Rodriguez.

"The main objective is to emphasize the importance of Spanish as an international language of communication."

Spanish is the language of famous literary figures from Miguel Cervantes in 2010 Nobel Prize for Literature winner Mario Vargas Llosa. We celebrate its diversity and capacity to embrace society with an exciting line-up of activities. This year we would like to bring this international cultural feast to as many people as possible, to introduce them to the rich richness that speaking our language brings."

Games and activities

Starting 9 a.m., visitors can take part in the festivity by choosing their favorite Spanish word. The façade of the Spanish cultural center in Manila will be painted in colors and interested participants can write their thoughts in Spanish or creatively design/draw.

Starting 11 a.m., participants can get a chance to play the Sopa de Palabras, Hermapalabras or the Diagonicio party game. Word game enthusiasts and the curious may also try their luck with El Juego casal Español. Prizes will be given away to lucky players.

At 12 nn at the patio are authentic Spanish club and other sounds accompanying pinchos.

Free Spanish demonstration classes will be held at 9 and 12:30 a.m., and 12:30 p.m. Diagnostic tests will be conducted at 10:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. Demo class for learning Spanish online will be scheduled that day at 11:30 a.m. and 2 p.m.

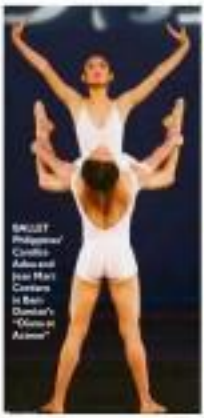
El Dia Español is organized by Instituto Cervantes de Manila in collaboration with the Spanish Embassy in the Philippines, Spanish Agency International Cooperation for Development, Light Railway Transit Authority and Centro Español de Manila.

Admission is free. Call 526-1482 or visit http://manila.cervantes.es/ Instituto Cervantes de Manila is at 4/F UBC Bldg., Ermita, Manila.

LIFESTYLE Arts&Books

Ballet bill divides dance community, opens old wounds

But Senate hearings on controversial bill have been postponed 'indefinitely'



BALLET Philippines' Cynthia Arboleda and Jose Mari Cordero in Ben Dunton's "Diana at Aurora"

By Rina Krystle R. Requiros
Intern

MUCH OF the heat surrounding Senate Bill 3079, which seeks to designate Ballet Philippines Foundation Inc. (BP) as the "Philippine National Ballet Company," has temporarily cooled after the Senate Committee on Education, Arts and Culture called for an indefinite postponement of its first public hearing.

A Senate insider said the second postponement (the first resulting from the unavailability of one stakeholder) of the hearing was due to the amount of bills being discussed by the committee that day.

"The bill will definitely be rescheduled when the senator-sponsor is fully," the insider said. "The pertinent material and active participation of all those concerned will be highly encouraged, so the committee can gather as much information as it can to make the bill more acceptable for everyone."

Available online, the "Ballet bill" defined BP's roles and functions and a yearly appropriation of P10 million for it.

The company's achievements and affiliations have also been listed in an explanatory note by the bill's author, Sen. Ferdinand Marcos Jr.

"The permanency that will be given to [the company] through legislation [will ensure] its shining future and empower it to fulfill its mission toward the development of a professional, world-class Filipino dance company," he wrote. He is not available for further comment at this time.

Politics of stakeholders

Paul Morales, BP's artistic director, said such actions were needed to ensure stronger funding and space for the company.

"The idea here really is about security and sustainability and how such can encourage and strengthen our art because of its benefit to all other dance groups in the future," Morales said. "Personally, I am con-

BALLET D2

PETRA Rahmer

"QUMPO. Old Manila," by Gherone Rubio

Dominic Rubio and Aileen Lanuza in joint show

DOMINIC RUBIO and Aileen Lanuza inaugurate the heritage homes of Las Casas Filipinas de Acuzar in Bataan in their joint show of Iberian Stylishness, "Filipinismo Peninsular," which opens June 23.

Rubio is the inheritor of the tradition of the great Damian Domingo, rendering dewy-dol portraiture paintings with his trademark saturations. His figures of colonial occupation are rendered within the idyllic contexts of colonial settings, such as Spanish churches and government buildings. The evocative romanticism is perhaps only enhanced by setting off his figures against the heritage structures of Las Casas Filipinas de Acuzar.

Lanuza's sensitive eye captures the exquisite warmth of the Filipino. Bronzed in period costume and food and constricted to the point of a dream, they embody the wistful feeling that emanates from Las Casas Filipinas De Acuzar.

Galerie Stephanie is at Unit 1B Ilaw Bldg., 1424 E. Rodriguez Junior Ave., Libis, Quezon City. Call 7091405, visit www.galeriestephanie.com.

"#2 Drift Looks Back," by Aileen Lanuza

"ILUSTRADOS," by Rubio

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Karina Baluyut holds 3 art shows

ARTIST/CRAFT expressionist Karina Baluyut explores the three facets of memory and experience that converge into a one-of-a-kind, three-show event at Galerie Francoise Mojadad, Galerie Francoise Fordyd Serpentinall, and Galerie-Raphael in Sarnoville, June 16-30.

Baluyut is an Architecture graduate of the University of the Philippines and topped the architectural board exams in 2006. The background in tradition observations that architecture represents enabled her examination in the junction of emotion and the danger of rules, shapes and forms.

With the eye of a skilled draftswoman and the sensitivity of a poet, Baluyut constructs new visual realities within the medium of abstraction and reveals the depth of emotional resonance in works that carry the weight of dimensions, memory, and the awareness of the passage of time.

The opening reception will be held at Galerie Francoise Mojadad (4/F Bldg. A, 340 Mojadad, Mandaluyong City; tel. 632.5705690; www.galerie@mojadad.com/www.galerie@mojadad.multiply.com) on June 16 at 6:30 p.m., which also hosts the exhibition "Oriental Encounters."

Using a recent trip to Japan as a reference point, Baluyut goes beyond simple figurations of flora. Her images have a haunting quality, perhaps drawing from the recent disasters that have hit Japan lately.

A parallel show will be held the same days in Galerie Francoise at Sorrivil Serpentinall (tel. 632.4390667).

In "Ocean travels," the abstraction and nonlinear organic patterns of the ocean and its surrounding environment from the crest of a paradoxically tranquil and chaotic excursion. The colonization and lines combine with the bold brushwork in announcing the emergence of a singular and determined revolution.

In contrast, "Great Explorations" at Galerie Raphael (2/F Shops at Serenity, Boulevard Global City; 632.4306264; www.galerieraphael.multiply.com) reveals Baluyut's architectural background, her works filled with geometric shapes and patterns that echo Mark Rothko and Paul Klee.

CREATIVITY UNLEASHED BY TATTOO AND SWATCH:

TATTOOED IN TIME

Ballet bill divides dance community . . .

To last page

cerned that the full-time professional dancers barely make minimum wage and legislation with a budget will free the company from the politics of the government stakeholders."

RP is an official resident ballet company of the Cultural Center of the Philippines. Philippine Ballet Theater (PBT) is the other resident ballet company of the CCP but holds home in Meralco Theater. Ballet Manila (BM), the third of the three major ballet companies in the country is independent.

Restricted choreographer and RP alumnus Edna Vida-Pyndus, who this year successfully staged "Dancing To Vida Edna," which gathered all three companies on stage for the first time, is all for the bill.

"Ballet Philippines has helped develop Philippine dance into what it is today as artistic Filipino expression that we can all be proud of," Vida-Pyndus wrote in a lengthy note on Facebook. "It continues to play a major role in the phenomenal development of the art in the Philippines."

Indeed, RP's principal dancers Candice Gabor and Jose Sibot Cordero, only recently arrived from the first Boston International Ballet Competition, two of the most prestigious such as bagging lead roles in a Balanchine performance and the Hindu Lirpa award for Outstanding Artist(s) for Asia.

This means Asher will be representing the Philippines to dance "Symbiosis" in Bonn next year, alongside stars of the Bolshoi and Mariinsky Theaters, two of the most prestigious ballet companies in the world. Asher previously bagged the silver medal at last year's USA International Ballet Competition in Jackson, Mississippi.

However, sentiments and questions of those opposing the bill both discussions stifling over from group meetings, e-mail inboxes and various social-networking websites) remain the same.

What sets RP apart from other major dance companies for it to deserve such exclusivity? Why not just establish an institution that would source funding for all three companies—if not all the dance groups in the country?

RP principal dancers Asher Salces and Candice Gabor recently took to the first Boston International Ballet Competition.

Threat to dance

Bulli-stranded dancer and choreographer Nelsinia Badajo, who has taught majority of the country's most popular ballerinas, called the bill a "threat" to the preservation of dance.

"If passed, the bill will create a division in the world of dance," says Badajo, who co-founded PBT after the first People Power at Edsa. "What has been accomplished in 25 years will be thrown to waste, with the stockpiling of just one group and the Kultura must cut into the budget of the Cultural Center of the Philippines."

Avery Villacorta, professor emeritus of University of the Philippines, wrote in an online position paper that the nationalization of groups was a "throwback from colonial times."

"It is really a meaningless and wasteful use of energy to keep emasculating this kind of dead horse in another and independent states," he said.

Most decidedly, multi-awarded dancer and choreographer Myra Beltran posted: "I thought Dia Aurora said in Protest to Senate Bill 2870," at which the dancer while her voice can be overheard and text a continuously flashed on the screen. It ended with "I thought that the only luxury that mattered was the one not entirely sought but the one which was collectively and freely treasured. Tell me, am I then horribly horribly wrong? http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_cUDh_wdO0

Once dubbed as a "dance philosopher" for her mind-altering performances, Denise Miranda of The Lovergangsters stirred in a different way.

"I doubt if P35 million would be even enough for a company like Ballet Philippines to run as a full-ensemble company. But if we want to remain in that neoliberal spirit of diversity, then perhaps the contemporary scene should also seek the same level of political endorsement, or both to get national dance houses. Following the tradition of Picasso and Dr. Jekyll, where contemporary dance is given platform through the direction pursued by these artistic directions."

Shown go on

More research and discussions are routinely needed for the bill to work. Meanwhile, the show must go on.

Lisa Ortigas-Elizalde and Ronda Gonzales, artistic directors of BM and PBT, respectively, refrain from commenting about the bill, but they are still in talks with RP about the Choreographers' Cup to be held in July.

All three companies also slate hit their productions in the coming dance season.

BM: "Esel Meets Bird" premiere Claire Jil—to be toured in Asia, London and Ireland (the year); "Tiffany Presents in Lola Barrying Lingerie"; "Swan Lake" (October); "Midnight in Chinatown" (November); and "Lola Ka Ya" (February 2012).

RP: "Encantado" (August); "Tantoanio" (September); "The Singing Bunny" (December) and "Bristle" (February 2012).

PBT: "Romeo and Juliet" (July); "Cinderella" (September); and "Bristle" (November).

E-mail the author at dbarcenas@gmail.com

BALAKI Kidsave on the University of the Philippines campus

MSO, Pasamba shine in Haydn concerto

By Pablo A. Tariman
Cover Stories

THE MANILA Symphony Orchestra (MSO) returned to the Cultural Center of the Philippines Main Theater last June 4 and produced a real grand—and moving—season opening.

The Haydn E Major Cello Concerto No. 2 was a quiet but powerful opening, with cellist Wilfredo Pasamba making a grand statement in all the three movements. His first movement cadenza was tasteful and remarkably expressive.

On the whole, Pasamba invented the spirit of the concerto, described by a commentator "as leisurely conversation between cello and orchestra, rather like an extravagant guest dropping by for afternoon tea and 'true gossip'"...and made sure he did not call unnecessary attention to himself.

With Arturo Molina at the podium, the concerto was for the most part delightful. With his perfect support cello Pasamba. The result was vintage Haydn at its most refined interpretation.

But IMHO, Haydn and most symphony composers save the performance of Mahler's Symphony No. 5. From its majestic opening featuring a haunted trumpet solo to the much-awaited adagietto and on to the fast-moving finale, the MSO under Molina exuded an assured aplomb.

The audience didn't stop applauding until the orchestra gave them an encore: a fandango from Capriccio Espagnole by Nicolai Rimsky-Korsakov.

CELLIST Wilfredo Pasamba

PIANIST Oliver Sabuga

Concertmaster's role

What role does a concertmaster play in these highly charged and well-attended performances?

MSO concertmaster Gina Medina Cebu, with pianist Mary Anne Espina, created a sensation in the opening of the concert season in UP Baloy Kalayaan a week earlier) and a good concertmaster must not only know his music very well but must also possess a high level of technical proficiency and artistic integrity.

"Since orchestral music-making is about combining talents of different musicians in subsequently a masterpiece," Medina said, "a good concertmaster should be able to work well with the conductor. He should be able to execute what the conductor demands of the work at hand. There is a level of submission to the conductor that is needed in order to bring out the music accordingly."

"Thereby, a person with a big ego will have a hard time being a concertmaster. Music making is a wholesomely talented profession, as a leader, the concertmaster should also be responsible for the level of playing should inspire and not intimidate the other members of the orchestra in order for them to perform with a high level of standard. He should be emotionally secure to accept corrections but must possess a strong distinction to make musical decisions in line with the conductor's musical ideas or interpretation of the score.

"But in the end, it's really about the music. Regardless of whether one is a soloist or concertmaster, one needs to get along with the conductor, members and the conductor. Relationships are very important in music-making. There is harmony in music, unless people making it go along."

Medina and Espina

In an evening of Brahms, Beethoven, De Falla and Granados's de Bukanas of the UP Baloy Kalayaan, Medina and Espina were at their best as chamber musicians. The excellent acoustics of the venue made the audiences feel as though they were treated to a one-on-one session among the assisting presence of a sound system.

Baloy Kalayaan is one venue where one can truly re-appreciate the beauty of the most intimate music-making. It's homey and intimate.

You will find that out if you find time to watch pianist Oliver Sabuga in his first solo recital at Baloy Kalayaan on June 18, 6 p.m. Program includes Haydn's Piano Sonata in E Minor, Hob. XVI:34; Rachmaninoff's Preludes, Op. 32; Beethoven's Piano Sonata No. 32 in A-Flat Minor, Op. 110; and Liszt's Apres une Lecture du Dante: Dante's Quasi Fantasia.

A gold medalist in the 2006 Manila International Invitational Competition in South Korea, Sabuga was also a prizewinner of the 2004 Lyon Concerto Competition and 1997-2000 Grand Prix winner in piano at the 2003 and 2004 Medalist Scottish Annual Scholarship Competition of the Centre for the Arts in Boca Raton, Florida.

He had master classes with Cecile Licad, Sarah Dawn Bardeen, Yoshiharu Hagui, Rebecca Penneys, Jon Kimura-Parker, Leon Lovenfield, Robert Weirald, John D'Connor and Philip Evans, in which he was given the highest commendation.

He graduated summa cum laude from Lyon University in Philadelphia under the tutelage of Roberta Batt.

A semifinalist in the Tchaikovsky competition in Russia, cellist Pasamba will also debut at Baloy Kalayaan, his program includes Bacher, Debussy and Shostakovich concertos in his July 9 Baloy Kalayaan recital.

On July 22, baritone Andrew Fernando, mezzo soprano Gloria Ocampo, flutist Christopher Guevara and Espina will be the main highlight of the Baloy Kalayaan Series.

Call tel. 7406(32 or 9900-3264270.

LIFESTYLE Arts&Books

Writer-artist Jun Cruz Reyes at the Crucible

JUN CRUZ Reyes is back on the art scene. He is mounting his fifth one-man show called "Ang Huling Dalagang Bukid at ang Autobiography na Hubo," on June 14, 6 p.m., at Crucible Art Gallery, 4/F, Bldg. A, SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City.

On exhibit will be his latest works on pen and ink, such as the "Dalagang Bukid" series, a reminiscence of his childhood in his hometown, Hagonoy, Bulacan.

Another highlight of the event is the launching of his book of the same title, published by Anvil Publishing. It has the same theme as his artworks and, more, written in his trademark use of street language in expressing his characteristic wit and humor.

Mainly known as a fictionist (he caught his present pen name "Kwentong Bar") and "Batute, Tubilo ...," Reyes is a versatile writer and was awarded by different literary institutions such as the Don Carlos Palanca Memorial Awards for Literature; the National Book Awards; Premios ni Wikang Filipino for his poetry, nonfiction, short stories and novels.

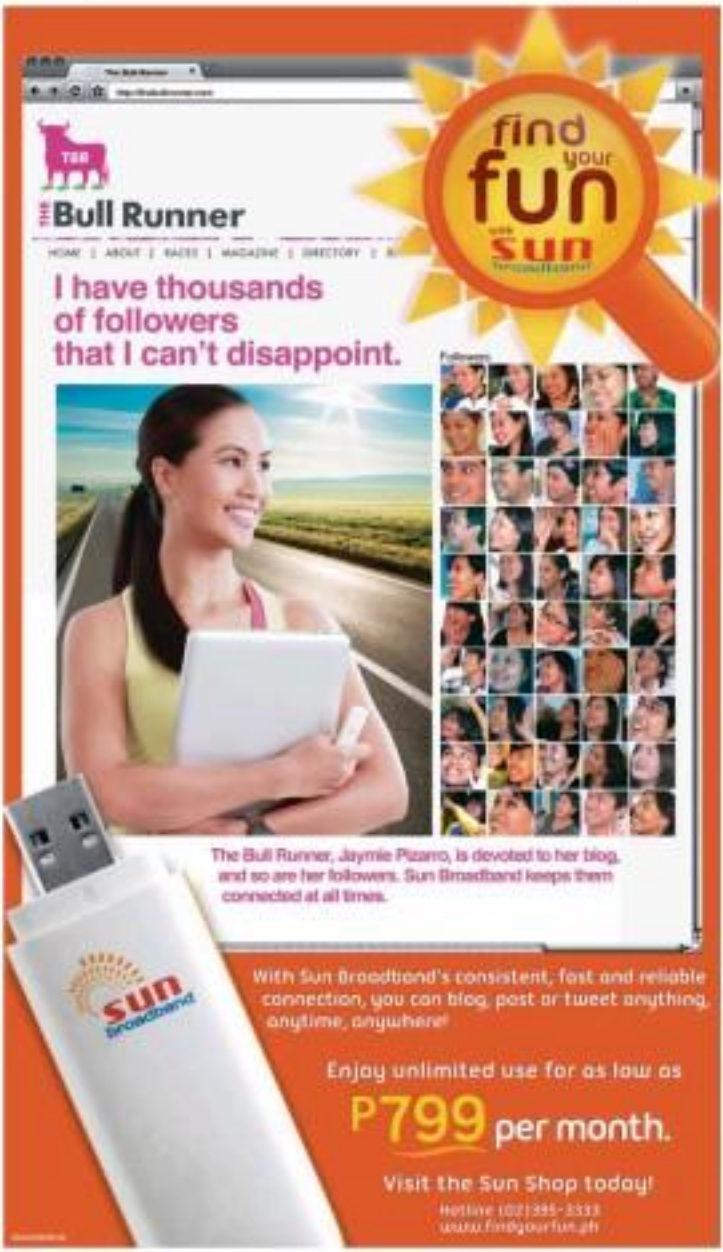
Reyes has authored 30 literary books, most of them award-winning.

He also showed his versatility in other fields such as painting, drawing and filmmaking. He won the 1986 Catholic Mass Media awards for his film documentary.

The multitalented artist had his last one-man show in 2000, featuring his painting and sculptured chairs and launched his novel, "Rina Perena," which won First Prize for Novel in Filipino the 1998 Philippine Centennial Literary Awards.

Reyes teaches Creative Writing at University of the Philippines. He is a director of the board of the Philippine Center of the International PEN (Poets, Essayists, Novelists) and was Philippine delegate to the International PEN Congress last year in Tokyo, Japan. He's a member of the International PEN's Writers in Prisons Committee.

PIECES from the artist's "Ang Huling Dalagang Bukid at ang Autobiography na Hubo"



GARFIELD — By Jim Davis

A-LUPIN — By JESS ABRERA

PLACAS RABOY — By Rhi Lanuza

DICK TRACY

LOVEBANATS — By ELIZABETH CHONGLO

BABY BLUES — By JERRY SCOTT

ROBO MACHINE — By RANDY ABREN

BEN — By DANIEL SHELTON

HUTTS

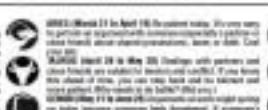
SHERMAN'S LAGOON — By JIM TOOMEY

DUSTIN — By STEVE KELLY AND JEFF PARKER

TULDOK — By RAMA COLL

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DIMAS



YOU WERE TODAY Your teaching skills will impress someone. Don't be surprised if the star your work does is your client's. You have a creative temperament and a strong sense of direction. Many of you're a romantic. Sometimes you overdo-often, and some times people here working you. It may. Avoid talk like given to discuss your, perhaps something to significant is proved [illegible]

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Be patient today. It's one very to pursue or express them with someone especially a partner or close friends about shared possessions, taxes or debt. Cool you are.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Dealings with partners and close friends are subject to tension and conflict. If you keep this ahead of time, you can stay back and be tolerant and more patient. Who needs to be right? (Not you.)

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Arguments and work might spring up today because someone feels threatened. If someone's ego is in trouble, find person with the courtesy's defenses or yourself.

CANCER (June 22 to July 22) Dealing with others, especially in group situations, might be unpleasant today. Knowing this ahead of time, plan others a wide berth. Take them 5.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22) This is a good day to have meaningful discussions with bosses, parents, teachers and others in authority. Be sure to have your facts straight before you approach them. Be flexible and willing to compromise. Remember, you're dealing with people who have more experience than you do.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22) It's a nice day to be outdoors with the one you simply treasure! It's easy to be intoxicated with passion. So you can bask in human calm. Guard against those pain reactions. (That before you speak.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Discussions about financial matters or possessions are likely today. Don't mess up them. It will surely create negativity.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Today the Moon is in your sign. However, it opposes fiery Mars. You might feel that you also might feel irritable and overreactive! You need a rest.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Something going on behind the scenes might upset you today. You could be why you feel like you're being left out. Perhaps you something. Don't be it. It will only make things worse.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19) Relationships with others in group situations will be quite competitive today. You can't resist trying to get the better of someone or winning an argument. (Is it really worth it?)

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18) This is an extremely good day to get jewelry with bronze, pewter, iron fans, 19th or the public. Associates will break out easily. You won't win.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20) Be patient if mood plans are delayed or changed. Avoid heated discussions about politics, religion or social issues -- definitely. Don't even go there!

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. Tips and programs at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

Concepts Sudoku By Dave Davis

	2		9			4		3
1			5					
			3	8				1
8	4	1	2		7			
		6				2		
			6		5	1	7	8
7				5	8			
					6			5
2		4			9		6	

Difficulty Level ◆

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

FROM BOOK TO FILM

'X-men' prequel very inventive

By Jordan Mart S. de Leon
Contributor

WHO WOULD have thought the world-changing events such as the Cuban Missile Crisis and the Cold War had mutants involved?

In "X-Men: First Class," a loose adaptation of the comic book of the same name, not only did mutants, led by Director Matthew Vaughn, had a hand in encouraging historical events to become history but they also breathe fresh life to this superhero franchise which has continued two on-an-X-Men the past years. With a terrific cast, superb performances, a strong narrative, and well-executed special effects, the film evolves into a mature installment that is not a sequel—taking the best for comic book-based superheroes—but instead, in effect, giving the franchise more of a reboot rather than a prequel.

Set in a time when mutants are still coming out of the woodwork, the film takes the viewer back to the 1960s when Professor X and Magneto are simply known as Charles Xavier (James McAvoy) and Erik Lensherr (Michael Fassbender), respectively, and are still learning their powers. Together, they find a group of young mutants to stop Sebastian Shaw (Kevin Bacon), a villainous mutant, from igniting World War III.

First-class take

Just like the first "X-Men," the film begins with a flip showing a young Erik Lensherr harshly separated from his parents in a Nazi concentration camp. But the film goes further and explains how Lensherr was not always an evil guy as he was originally pushed over the force by a manipulative Sebastian Shaw who was then planning to start a global war.

Twenty years later, Lensherr seeks to exact revenge on Shaw, but he crosses paths with a young Charles Xavier, who is tapped by CIA agent Moira Mc-Taggert (Rose Byrne) to stop the mutant villain as well.

Seeing the unseeren team-up of two iconic mutants who are become sarcastic roommates is not only a treat for geeks, but also for moviegoers who simply want to be entertained.

What follows is a whirlwind sojourn around the globe—Las Vegas, Miami, Argentina, Oxford, Washington DC—as the duo attempts to search young mutants to help them fight Shaw, who has recruited Hayley Kiyoko and Oona Chaplin, among others.

But while the film seemingly can't stay put, it does maintain its focus on the most important aspect: the relationship between actor Erik Lensherr and Magneto, which sets forth the formation of the Xfiles and the Brotherhood, and which, not to mention, is the movie's driving force.

Here we are drawn how they were once best friends who share their deep ties for their mutant kind until they differ and break up over the question of mutant assimilation.

Without a doubt, this is Fassbender's coming-out role. He breathes life into Magneto so easily as he cast loose denial. While the past "X-Men" films have not had him as the villain, here we find us cheering for him as a hero after seeing his sad origins.

McAvoy does a laudable role as a dork, smart Xavier that supersedes Jennifer Lawrence, who plays Mystique. Her story in the film, tied to mutation her chameleon with Xavier sometimes, chameleonally reveals how she is tied to be much more than Magneto's former sidekick.

New mutant breed

While most fans of the comic books may have turned mutinous about the different lineup of characters in the film (in the comics it was Cyclops, Angel, Beast, Unlisted Professor X), the new characters inject new blood into the film as a whole. The new mutants—Havoc (Lucas Till), a female Angel (Zoe Kravitz), Banshee (Caleb Landry Jones) together with a young Oscar (Nicholas Hoult)—make notable debuts but receive too little screen time for us to become really familiar with them.

But they're involved in arguably the film's coolest scene—donning both Magneto's the original X-men costumes.

The finale, as expected, lays the groundwork for Xavier and Magneto's future enmity for the way "X-Men: First Class" ends ...underdeveloped characters, loopholes, and Fassbender's potential to really develop Magneto, the character's motive to beg for a "first-class" sequel.

MCAM top: James McAvoy as Charles Xavier; Michael Fassbender as Erik Lensherr; Jennifer Lawrence as Raven Mystique; January Jones as Emma Frost; and Nicholas Hoult as Hank McCoy/Beast

French film fest reels off at Shang

THE 2011 French Film Festival is running until June 19 at the Shang Cineplex Cinema 6 at Shangri-La Plaza in Mandaluyong.

"Le Marquis," a film shot in Cebu in 2010, tells the tale of the unfortunate tattooed prisoner Thomas Cardoso, who calls himself "The Marquis" to gain his inmates' respect. Soon, he is framed drawn to enamor and a robbery in Manila.

In "Ensemble" (The Other One), Anne-Marie's peaceful break-up with Alex takes on an unusually jealous turn when she finds out about the new woman in his life.

In "La Tête de Maman" (Mother's Smile), Lola Chaleb, her mother's former lover to the reason for her sadness, she struggles to get him and her mother's smile back.

In "Un Prince Parfait" (Love Like We Said), the female protagonist is caught between her love for the ruthless Pierre and her cunning sixth instinct.

"Dernier des Siens" (The Last among the Cruel Ones) features an 11-year-old Marie's lonely execution, during which he witnesses his family's disintegration.

In "Les enfants de Timpelbach" (Trouble at Timpelbach), children left without parents pass the time planting pranks and defeating authority.

"Dans les Cordes" (Inside the Ring) takes shining rivalry into the boxing ring, as stars Angie and Sandra fight it out to be named the Female Champion.

The film "7 ans" (7 Years) is the tragic love tale between prisoner Vincent and his wife Marie, who begins an affair with a guard in Vincent's prison.

"Adèle: Rise of the Mummy" is an adaptation of a popular French comic book from the 1970s. Featuring the extraordinary adventures of Adèle Blanc-Sec, set to premiere in France.

Arthur 3: The War of the Two Worlds (Arthur Malentazar) is rounded with his beloved Princess Selenia in the latest adventure adapted from Luc Besson's best-selling children's books, "Arthur 2: The Revenge of Maltazard." The follow-up to worldwide hits of first hit "Arthur and the Minimoys," this film regrows the combo of live action and magnificent state of the art animation.

Winner 11-year-old Suzanne's aimless search for love in "A Soi Aimée" (To Our Loves).

"Sans Toit Ni Loi" (Vagabond) is the mystery of a girl named Mona, who is found frozen to death in a ditch.

Mentally and physically handicapped Virginie and Jeanne fall in love a normal life in "La Clémentine" (A Judgment in Stone); the their classic interviews soon turn into a macabre dance of good and evil.

"Mademoiselle" is a gripping story of a woman called Claire, who makes a connection with an artist after getting to know him in just 24 hours. Claire is then left with the enormous possibility of enjoying the happiness love brings, which can change her life forever.

Follow the life of a person with autism, Juliette Bonniers, in "Elle S'appelle Sabine" (Her Name is Sabine) a documentary by her sister Sandrine.

For ticket inquiries: 632-7762 or visit us on

: San Mig Light Drinkers

Remembering Anding

By Bettina J. Legarda Jr.
Contributor

When National Artist for Literature Alejandro Roces passed away, a real national personality left the scene. He had contributed so much to Philippine freedom and culture

ALEJANDRO R. "Anding" Roces was my father's first cousin, but since he was only two years older than I was, we treated one another as cousins. This was true of his other eight brothers, both younger and older than me.

In fact, we were closer than cousins. In the last seven years before the outbreak of World War II, I had lunch at their home at 902 Taft Ave. on Remedios every school day.

Since we were all at the Ateneo on P. Faura, my father had arranged with his father, Rafael Roces Sr., to take my sometime meal each then, since we lived on far-off Balete Drive and he wanted to spare me the cantankerous of the intermittent bus ginger ale built boarders. In a similar manner was their cousin Vicente "Enting" Ilustrisimo.

Rafael, with his driver Gil at the wheel, would leave his Plaza Eraño office in his black five-passenger Dodge and first fetch another cousin, Mano Reyes of Palawan, from Letran (St. Ferdan), where we all called (a—finding his teacher Lalo [Chico—directly to see his age), possibly Pipo [Francisco], losing and myself. Another five-passenger Dodge accommodated all eight or nine passengers.

Some of Anding's brothers had other nicknames, Boting [Jesus] was also called Tatoy, now the name of a bar at his daughter Nina Sicaven's. Uncial Gaston [José], Peping [Jose] was Pempet, and Anding was Dando, and it was by that name that I addressed him whenever we conversed.

At lunch, Rafael dominated the conversation. He ate sparingly but talked copiously. He was said their father lived on exotic cures of concoct. Often he would stand while giving his lunchtime discourse.

Rafael and his wife Inocencia (Inday) were lively, sociable and highly principled. Rafael was also very entrepreneurial, and among his pursuit ventures was a magazine titled *Racueteur*.

Racueteur

Anding spent a summer there and told a typical *Anding* story on himself. They were gathered around a campfire after dinner and he was asked for a guitar selection. He chose a song popular then, "Sasmalan en Madrid," and gave it all he had, finishing with a flourish. When he ended, there was dead silence, and he noticed his companions looking expectantly at him.

"Where are you going to play?" they asked him.

"But I've already finished!" he exclaimed.

"Oh, we thought you were just tuning the guitar."

This typified *Anding* as a raconteur—part fact, part fantasy, imbued with humor, often at his expense.

(The management mine was taken over by the Japanese during the occupation, and when they left they blamed the Roces and made it impossible to rehabilitate it.)

Rafael, on top of all his other admirable qualities, was extremely patriotic, and this was passed on to his sons, five of whom took part in resistance activities. *Anding* was one of them, but did not last long, owing to his asthma from which he suffered from an early age. His eldest brother Rafael Jr. (*Uding*) was executed by the Japanese.

After the war, and studies abroad, *Anding* and I diverged in our career paths. He was an educator and a columnist, while I worked quietly at research in the Central Bank.

He became President Diosdado Macapagal's information secretary, reestablished the Bureau of Mariculture, which he pioneered and popularized.

With fellow National Artist Nick Joaquin, he preached the gospel of Filipino heritage. While his literary works remained around candlelight, his nonfiction work on Roxas is probably his most lasting legacy. He regarded the Roxas as "the Filipino's ultimate community expression."

How prescient he was is illustrated by a historical incident cited by Ricardo Pedrosa of Orix, van den Muijzenberg in "The Philippines through Its (upon) Eyes."

Sixty-nine cigarettes were sent in 1869 to Semarang, Java, in touch cigar-making in the western shore. On their oriental home 18 months later, one of them said that in Java, the rice was finer and more varied, the food cheaper, the fruits better (except mangoes).

But when asked if she wanted to return, she said no, life was very dull there, "no fiestas, no music, no processions, nothing at all."

This was more eloquent than any number of pseudo-laconic oneliners in underlining *Anding*'s emphasis on the fiesta.

Anti-Marcos activist

During martial law, *Anding* was active in the anti-Marcos movement, and somehow avoided being jailed.

He joined Ninoy Aquino's ticket in the 1978 elections, and his told to how people incensed there seemingly and even offered their money, instead of the other more attractive, of course, they were not allowed to vote.

Thereafter, the Roces turned Cine Idea, which had survived Japanese attempts to burn it in February 1945, monumentally worst and the "Pinoy Moves" opening bash at *Anding*? But nothing could be done about it, since any allegation of a political motive would have held up the insurances payments.

After the Ninoy Colisano Aquino's reprieve on Ninoy Aquino's assassination, *Anding* had resumed his columnist writing and we stayed in touch writing and frequently phone calls. He told me he saved copies of my weekly Free Press columns. A few months ago, even his asthma-writing came to an end in the face of his deteriorating health.

It was the last country could be for one who had contributed so much to Philippine freedom and culture.

"ANDING" Roces: His humor was often at his expense. He risked the nation's consciousness about the "fiesta" and preached the gospel of Filipino heritage.

ing made up a satirical verse to Spanish-due started: "La cena—not *Aguinaldo*, agree to arise soon." In English: "The Agnews commission aggravates the situation," which doesn't quite catch the nonsense play on the word *agrava*.

This verse he recited to me—and my daughter hailed when I took her to meet him and the courageous Cecile Guidote Alvarez at weekends in New York as the world most some real live members of the opposition. They were so stripped for funds I had to give *Anding* and Cecile a subway token each to get them home.

In the 23 years since Edsa I,

I got my hair back.

I look younger, feel better – unstoppable!

– Mark Gil, *Actor*

After more than a decade, acclaimed actor Mark Gil finally sports a full head of hair again. And he's back for more action.

"I started going bald when I was in my mid-30s. I noticed my hairline was receding. In my 40s, my crown area was thinning, and continued to advanced baldness. I lost confidence. Gil insecure and became anxious of men with fuller hair. It mentioned me in life. I was conscious all the time of. Bahala-Bahala." he recalls.

As a man in his prime, he thought he should do his

like others enjoying the time of their lives. "There were lots of things that I wanted to do, to experience them in full blast, without hesitation and embarrassment because of my hairloss. So I bought 'thickening products' from Australia, 're-growth shampoos' from abroad and an expensive 'hair-spray paint.' But nothing happened.

The more I used these remedies, the older I looked and the more I was teased by my colleagues," he says.

Other men gave in to baldness easily – but not Mark. "I thought, I'm satisfied with my face and body, but I want my hair back. When I learned that Restoare offers a non-surgical hair replacement procedure, I was convinced to give it a try. With **Transdermal Cosmetic Reconstruction (TCR)**, I got my hair back! I'm impressed! It looks perfect and feels natural like my own. I felt like I had never been bald at all," he adds.

With his new full head of hair, Mark regained his confidence and he's back on top of his game with no reservations. "I look younger, feel better – unstoppable! In fact, I even got more movie and TV offers now. I think my hair helps a lot. I do action scenes, play soccer, jet ski and swim with my hair. I'm not afraid to get it wet. It looks very natural, not or dry. I'm amazed!"

Mark is not the only one satisfied with how TCR brought his hair back – his wife, too. "My wife is very happy. She is like sleeping with a new man since. She gives safe sex. Mas adventurous pa. With more hair, I feel I have more confidence and vigor. My wife is blown away!"

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Visual Arts

Noell El Farol in South Korea

"PUBLIC LIBRARY," an outdoor permanent installation of cast glass sculptures by Noell El Farol, is on view at Incheon Art World Museum, Songseon, South Korea. The works of Noell El Farol are ostensibly connected as millions of experiences and impressions arrived at by recollecting disparate fragments of memory and representing them in books in his book "Public Library" project. An installation of books cast in glass, a take-off from the recent one-man show of El Farol entitled "Bibliography," consists of book forms constructed in sheet and glass. The "books" for Incheon Art World Museum is first of the series of Public Library Installation Project, a collection of glass works in book form, representing collective story of particular events, recorded in a dramatic manner to simply creating connection with the experiences of the reading public.

'Roc-Mindanao' in Rome

"Roc-Mindanao" is an exhibition June 15-21 in Rome, Artists in this collection after Lara Benitez-Jumalon, Cynthia Alexander, John Ulbath, Jana Jo-nadon-Ayala, Lorna Fernandez, Michelle Lua, Karen Garrafiola, Cristina Tan-Bilbao, Ka-Carandang, Lea Padilla, Elena Gandionco, Emma Prima, Fernando Cinco Esteban, Grammy Garcia, Estrella, Sabina Garcia Agra-an

"GREAT Fall," by Edwin Martinez

Rizal exhibit at Big & Small

To celebrate Dr. Jose Rizal's 150th birth anniversary, Mandaluyong Big and Small Art Gallery opens the exhibition "Great Rizal Pigeons," which runs until June 19 at the BIG GARAGE (#5, 5800 Magsaysay, Mandaluyong). The show is curated by Dr. Joel Mendoza. Featured are works of visual artists in the 6 D Chick-Habit Group: Alexis Angeles, Chuchit Calayag, Jayson Cochiz, Xavier Mallari, Ferdie Montemar, Jessie Mendoza, Joel Soriñoso, Kim Jerome Santiago, Bryan Tiwes and Cyril Tuzar, the Black Jack Group: Peter Alcazar, Jay Bermudez, Ray Bolivoso, Raymond Bonilla, Romeo Calderon, Aubrey Caparas, Isadora Lino, Gualberto Leong Jr., John Marin, Gino Nagpal, Rommel Samaana, Jakes Sepeda, Jay Torres, Pepi Umali and Rodney Yap; sculptures by Jong Tangcilo; guest artists, Primar Calayag, Joey Cotterior, Joel Mendez, Pugapack, Glenn de Leon and Ronald Ventura. Call 09162742, 09162949 or 0917-8482601.

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Emmie G. Velarde

HEARD

ADELE sings/songwrites: Adele on her hit new album, "21," featuring "Rolling in the Deep": "I deal with things differently now. I'm more pensive, more honest, more forgiving and more aware of my own flaws, habits and principles. Something that comes with age, I think." Her 21...

Historical friction

Revisiting history on prime time TV can be tricky, to say the least

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

TELEVISION fiction has caused friction.

The ERB 7 prime time series, "Amaya," has been put to task by authorities for historical and cultural "inaccuracies." Anthropologist Dr. Alicia Magos said the use of the word Sinakot, "[it] detached from proper historical and cultural context ... may be deceptive."

Rolando Caballero, an elder of the Panay-Bukidnon community and National Living Treasures awardee of the National Commission for Culture and the Arts, raised concerns over the depiction of the Sinakot (well-kept maiden) in the TV story, specifically her transformation into a warrior and her dressing during ceremonies.

Jeanette Donolaso, "Amaya" head writer, said the exposure that the creative team took pains to research the show's historical background. "We consulted various literary works, among them the book of William Henry Scott and the dissertation of Bernardita Abrera." "When she was in school, she said, "the pre-colonial period was tackled only fleetingly. We had no idea of our roots so sayuuda."

'Revisionist'

Wen Amaya, "Darnahon said, the network aimed to address this oversight via the prime-time drama in prime time soap. "In my research, I discovered that the pre-Hispanic period is a gold mine of stories. He want the audience to realize how rich our past is."

As for the criticisms, Darnahon reiterated, "Amaya' is a work of historical fiction." But she stated that broader area attention in pre-colonial Philippines and in other Southeast Asian and Austronesian societies. And the scantily-clad characters? She said: "Before the Spaniards came, our people had no malice about nudity. And logically, if a pin-like penile breaker is inside her home, there's no reason for her to be all dressed up."

Gerardo Mercadejas, "Amaya" movement director, insisted: "It's testament history." He pointed out that the production consulted experts. "We have two consultants from the University of the Philippines History department, Neil Santillan and Vicente Villan. We have a choreographer, Marciano Ilao of the Ateneo Ubanata Folklore Group. We taught the actors how to how to hold the kampilan (sword) and the kalasag (shield)."

When in doubt and when there are no historical records, Mariangas said, "We ask our consultants." The rule of thumb: "It should be truthful within the world of the story" As for the Spanish wars in the script, he said, "We are open to feedback and we have informed the writers and actors to take-off in awe."

Brocka, Bernal: Who was the better director?

TODAY how some cinematic centers worsen never seem to get settled.

At a recent forum, two groups of young film lovers passionately debated anew the old issue we thought already cold's question, "Who is the better director, Lino Brocka or Ishmael Bernal?" To make things dodgier still, they asked us to help "settle" the issue, which apparently influences creative itself.

Alas, our answer's very helpful when we just

VENTINEER

Nestor U. Torre

in our two sentient' wrath. Instead of taking sides and engaging in necessarily odious comparisons, we merely summoned Shouldn't we just be grateful that the '70s and '80s gave us two master directors instead of only one?

They and their films could be an abiding

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New 'Skins' less edgy but still racy

By Oliver N. Palandeck
Cover Boxer

THE NEW American remake of the acclaimed British teen drama "Skins" shapes its themes and controversial moves... about a group of sexually active and moral-smoking teens. But this new MTV series is less edgy, although its depictions of sex, drugs use and bad behavior are still racy, and it outshines reference too heavily for regular US network shows.

Those already familiar with the original series may find the re-imagined version a watered-down, different, and less sexually MTV Ana likes to see certain intimate scenes as well.

The Americanized characters are still believable, thanks to their cast mates. Tony (Jasson Newsted) is the manipulative alpha male; Michelle (Isabel Townsend) is the hot but insecure girl; Stanley (Daniel Flaherty) is the awkward virgin; and so with Michelle.

There are major changes. The pill-popping and depressed Cadie (Sasha Pieterse) doesn't have an eating disorder, which was unexplicitly portrayed in the original show. And instead of a gay guy, this version has a lesbian, Tea (Nella Rae O'Brien), a show leader really bored by overly dramatic and confused partners.

The Tea character explains exemplifies the potential of the show, sensitively utilizing of, reasons exclusive to the American setting. The characters has smaller grandmother's sex-

ual identity during the latter's and unwilling date of the homophobic "Generation Gone" in the 1950s.

The other has a one-dimensional with Tony but is another former Tony challenges and sometimes hits on equal. Interestingly, British Tony had a brief affair with the gay guy so this is a different rapport altogether.

In more insightful changes make "Skins" interesting and may still improve darkest hours of the predecessor, even if they find the more pointless moments. But the established viewer will nonetheless be amazed by the interwoven tales of teen pain, teen isolation, teen and rebellion.

"Skins" at 10 tonight, 11 p.m. on MTV Asia.

Cartoon Network gift's 'Generator Rex'

Cartoon Network is giving kids a chance to check if their bodies are hosting

CAST of "Skins"

"mutation," or microscopic machines, via a new augmented reality (AR) application created for its new series, "Generator Rex."

Log on to the Cartoon Network website or through the Cartoon Network Facebook page to start the scan. Hidden way kids can then load the accompanying videos on YouTube or Facebook to share with their friends.

Augmented reality is the term for a camera-enhanced view of a physical, real-world environment, where virtual elements are merged with the real-life scene. Users of Cartoon Network's application will need a computer, webcam and speakers.

"Generator Rex" airs on Cartoon Network on weekends at 6 p.m.

Nine series on Nick

Nickelodeon's newest series, "The Fresh Beat Band," is set to a music school. Five friends Marina, Kiki, Trina and Alex address problems pertaining to romance every day song, dance and help the viewers.

The show challenges preschoolers to the importance of friendship, working together to a positive way and respect.

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Brocka, Bernal . . .

Pinapagsa

...on night and day but thank God for that... made me to different The better & worse? Lino and Manuel were both EP guards but that's about their only symbiotic link... that and their workers, both strong women, as you know where their true get their spine and spunk!

Lino was sensitive but mean to the core; Manuel was a citizen of the world, drinking deeply from different cultures. Then in, creating literature, that towards the end of his career, he belatedly "came home" to the issues of his Philippine existence... which included a provocative unfolded.

That, Tony Lino and awfully can't, very and shiny Manuel eventually forced their actors blanket opinion once more. England, by, however, both filmmakers wouldn't live long enough to produce their most mature works... and we are all the poorer for it.

The two directors are "resplanted" by yet another pupils: Bids. They were both named National Artists for Film. It appears that they are also connected forever with the cinematic highest artistic honors: severally, alternately by ultimately irrelevant distinctions of "good, better, best." Their films were decent good enough and that's what counts.

Lino and Manuel were unique and iconoclastic in their domain, the styles they employed, and the characters they created up to middle their directorial careers.

Lino: Lino's Everyman domain were all loud, lust and anger, swelling with righteous resolution and remonstrance, giving the same music a voice that was found around the world, to get nowadays like "Ugly as Sin-dot" and "Desperado-ho."

Manuel: Manuel's film were harder to fight, but he chose to range down, use with a groove hands; but with his super wit and mastery of the cinematic pas doses and perfect squibs.

Who is to say which style was "better"? In both instances, a new, dystopic was supplied, and long-lasting been rendered.

Other debaters add these distinctions: Brocka had greater heart and motivation, but Bernal was the better cinematic artist. Lino and Manuel?

Uh, oh, there's that "better" word again! Finally now and for all, enough.

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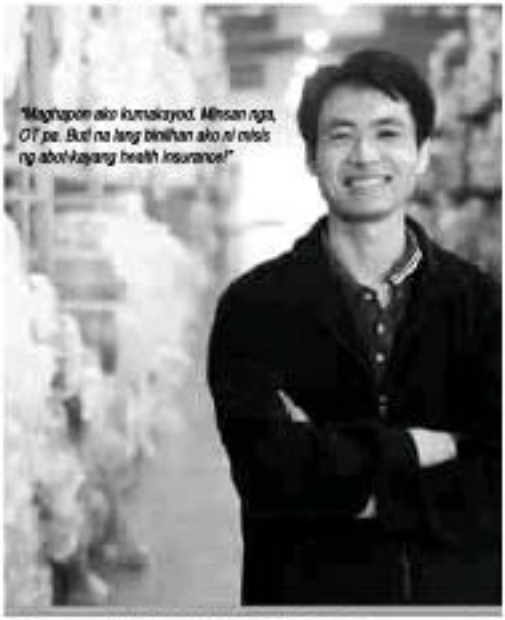

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Merchandising: No to Batman+condoms

By Amy Means
Contributor

GONE are the days when searching a superhero movie with the kids required the purchase of just videos and maybe some popcorn and cold drinks.

Now there are toys, shirts, notebooks, bags, pencil cases, blankets, batteries, folders, fast food tie-ins and other smiley items that carry the superhero's image catching the eye of children, and even adults. Even the popcorn and soda probably come in tumblers with the movie's logo. Welcome to the world of product merchandising and licensing.

William Tan is one of three partners that run Pacific Licensing Hubs (PLH), a Singapore-based licensee of many top animation brands. PLH licensed out brands's licensing rights trademarks recently.

The appeal of acquiring licenses for various items is basic, says Tan: "The pitfalls for the businessman are very minimal, because the licensed image are well known characters, so they're not difficult to sell."

Full slate

For instance, the Warner Brothers DC comics franchise "has a very full slate for the next three years," Tan points out. "For 2011, we have 'Green Lantern' and the 'Wonder Woman' TV series. Then for 2012, there's 'Christopher Nolan's new Batman installment, 'The Dark Knight Rises' and the Superman reboot, 'Man of Steel.' And for 2013 to 2014, there's the 'Flash' movie, and an all-star 'Justice League.'"

Despite the differing genres—Nolan's films, for instance, are unapologetically dark, while "Green Lantern" and "Man of Steel" are expected to be lighter—Tan says their partners always think a step ahead. "For movies, they target teens and adults. After the release of a movie, our studio partner always releases a new animated series in order," he says. "It's always launched at the back of each series, and it's all CGI (computer generated imagery). So we give both adults and kids something to look forward to."

The product licensing business is so attractive, Tan says, that the challenge is how to say no to some potential partners. "We can't, for instance, approve alcoholic-to-us, or sex products. I once had a guy come to my office, very excited and say, say, 'I want to work with you on Superman ... I'm producing condoms [and] the packaging's strong and liked by both men and women.'" Needless to say, the guy got turned down. That wouldn't have worked with Batman, either.

Strict screening

Practically any product can be licensed to add value to its selling capability, but there are pointers to consider, adds Brad Rudge, one of Tan's PLH partners. "Companies like to leap into brand awareness; the critical thing is knowing not just how to make a good product, but how to sell it."

Rudge says they have strict screening methods for prospective partners. There's also a stringent production process that requires three levels of approval before a piece of merchandise gets to the shelves.

Explains Tan: "Where we present a new opportunity to possible manufacturers, they get so excited and want everything. We always have to remind them to slow down, do their research and invest in the products they know they can do."

PLH is open to getting new licensees, including Filipino characters from TV, film and print. "There's been a huge growth in Southeast Asia. Unlike the North American and European markets, the demographics for children are much [from the economic downturn]," notes Rudge. "This trade show is a big 'Store Open' sign in terms of how we see work. We're casting the net a bit wider."

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ENTERTAINMENT

Bill Paxton on Bill Henrickson

ACTOR Bill Paxton on his "Big Love" character Bill Henrickson: "When we first started the show, Bill seemed like a fairly normal upstanding citizen who represented conservative America. He was lovingly normal, except that he's a polygamist. Then first season was very much of a conventional comedy. It was very Midwest. But now the show has gone from soap to saga. I would like my character to be able to smile a little bit more. He has become almost like Job. He's put himself out on the middle of a river—he can't go back, it's exhausting."

Say goodbye to 'Big Love'

By Edwin G. Velarde

BEVERLY HILLS, Ca.—"Mr. Paxton, will you marry me?" The proposal was hailed in by walked through the door. Seemed like a logical question for the actor who had played the patriarch of a polygamist family for four years, with the final season coming up.

As easy can, too, it turned out. "Why no," Bill Paxton said, getting nudely as he pulled a chair and offered an explanation (that was really unnecessary): "Bill isn't really a polygamist; he just can't say no."

That second bill (Bill Henrickson, main man in HBO's "Big Love," which has a surprisingly loyal following in the Philippines, considering how two other newsmaking bills, Bill and Director, are going through the wringer here.

Back in the chair, HBO had inserted a big five-day media siesta to introduce new shows and new seasons of old ones, and gathered the stars of all seven programs to chat with entertainment journalists from North America, Europe and Asia.

Cool, that's all

"Big Love's" main cast—Bill (Jeanne Tripplehorn, Chloe Sevigny and Ginnifer Goodwin—had flown in on Day 3 and were driven straight to the pool as press cues. This might cause a commotion elsewhere, but not at the Four Seasons Hotel, where the sight of Hollywood celebs resting their turn at the life is cool, that's all. The visiting journalists toted in and out as well by not asking for snapshots with the stars. It wasn't easy.

Here's how the morning went: Bill, Jeanne, Chloe and Ginnifer, individually, were brought to the assigned rooms, where they met as a table with ten or seven of the journalists. Each just 15 minutes allotted every group per round, the questions flew fast and hard. It seems it felt like the actor spent too much time on one topic, but it was because clear how questions this was from 1st or last point of answer. It was a hardy group that could squeeze in some bantering, laughs, and queries outside of the subject at hand. Like that marriage proposal.

"Big Love" tells the story of a Salt Lake City businessman who balances the needs of his three wives, their nine kids and three houses in the same fenced-in compound, and his ever-unimpressed and political pursuits.

In the final 10 episode season that starts airing tomorrow, 10 p.m. on HBO Signature, new wife sinner Bill Henrickson (Ivanka Dink to its one by an, assuring that he is a polygamist. Instead of living embraced for honesty as they hoped, his family is engulfed by lunatics, one the least from other polygamists trying very hard to keep their lives below the aerial radar. Choice cuts from the interviews follow:

BILL PAXTON

When do you, B. Bill Paxton ("Name," "Thane"), now 55, was caught on camera saying as *US President John F. Kennedy emerged from the Hotel Texas in Fort Worth, Forrigh*, his very project is a formerly Simple.

How do you see this final season going down?

It's going to go down as a classic show because it's a familial drama, as its core and, as strange as this family is, you can't help but root for these people.

Any more bombshells in Season 5?

The show's always had great suspense because this is like a family living underground. But we're accepted them and we're emotionally invested in them as an audience. You worry for their safety. There's this bombshell that comes out in the second and third episode, an "oh my God" moment.

In the five years of doing this series, have you ever thought polygamy could work for you?

(Laughs.) If I've learned only one thing here, it's how insane it would be to go down that road.

Do you have a favorite?

My character relates to Bob the most because they're from the same generation. He and Nicky have the same roots, though, and everybody needs a Margene in their lives because she's like a puppy, always ready to play and be playful and effer-

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Dramarama sa Hapon GMA

Rare 'pleasant souffle' from Woody Allen

NEW YORK—"Life is noisy and complicated," goes a line in the new romantic comedy, "Midnight in Paris," in classic, cynical Woody Allen humor.

But this isn't your usual comedy of errors from Allen. Critics are lauding his latest film as "pleasant," a "soufflé" and in a compliment which may seem out of character to his longtime fans, "sweet-natured."

So is the 75-year-old Allen, who often filled his old scripts with corny cracks about everything from failed relationships and sex to mid-life crises, getting remarried? "No, it happens to be the idea that you get as the time," he told Reuters in a recent interview in his dark, mysterious New York director of Star Blind with brains and no object of a drink's couch.

"People think there is a design to it, but there is not," he said in typically aloof fashion about his latest film.

Allen has always been beloved in Europe. But such gushing from American critics—whose reviews have made "Midnight in Paris" currently the top-rated movie on movie aggregation website Rotten Tomatoes with 92 per cent approval—is unusual.

"Midnight in Paris" stars Owen Wilson as a successful Hollywood screenwriter who, while struggling to finish his first novel and searching for life's answers is transported to the 1920s and meets such luminaries as Ernest Hemingway and F. Scott Fitzgerald. Allen said his eternally pessimistic, or realistic, self, would have been the same in any era. "If you are an unhappy person for any reason, a switch in geography or a switch in time is not going to do it for you."

Allen is so unsentimental that he never watches his films once they are finished and derides ceremonies honoring his past films as "living in the past (to the) ghoulish way." Reuters

CHEER FACTOR

Stars impart precious life lessons from their fathers

DOLLY WOOD

Dolly Anne Carvajal

DOLLY'S Day is just around the corner. Although it wasn't as close to my Dad as I was in the 10 years after they separated, I still have fond memories of him. We all have a little of our Dads in us. I got my Dad's outgoing nature, his living sarcasticism, and the way he gets so engrossed in whatever he does. Though he has passed on, it still gives me great pride that he won the Iloilo Star, thrice in the United States when he was a kid and that, after his wild days, he cleaned up his act and became a religious person.

The sources hear high celebs get on the success ladder, they still look up to their fathers. What better, or time than Father's Day to pay homage to every one's very first hero?

***

JOHN HALL QUINTO: "My dad and I are both very jolly people, and we both have a good heart. He is 100 percent supportive of all his kids. He never stood in the way of our dreams, big or small."

***

OGIE ALCASID: "I am like my dad when it comes to work ethics. We are both hardworking. I'm proud that, at his age, he still has the same principles."

***

JUDGING BOSSES: "I'm very adventurous, like my Emil. He very resourceful, like him. He likes to joke around, make people laugh. He's not perfect, but he loves his family and is on good terms with everybody, responsible and helpful. I'm very proud of him."

***

ALEX GONZAGA: "Just like my Dad, I am conservative and God-fearing. I'm proud of him for introducing our whole family to Jesus and the Christian faith. I'm also proud of his drive to spread the word of God, and of the fact that he brought us up the old-fashioned way."

***

DIANE MEDINA: "I got my business sense from my dad. He started from scratch, nothing came easy, but with determination, he became a successful businessman. He sent me to the best schools and always reminded me that it was because of how hard he worked that he was able to give me a good life. But, he also said, when I grow up, I'll have to do it all for myself, so that, whatever I work for will be truly mine. I left Brazil for the Philippines with nothing, and did everything for myself, just like my Dad said. Now we are both proud of each other."

***

CHOMI HANSEN: "My Dad was an excellent cook. I learned from him."

***

"I'm a good cook, too."

(More tomorrow.)

ALEX PAUL Quinto

JERICHO Rosales

CARMI Martin

Blair's anniversary

To celebrate its 32nd anniversary, Blair's Academy Center introduces a new set of celebrity endorsers led by Elaiza de Castro, Nina, Jaden Rico, Shenia Halili, Alwyn Uytingco and Jessica Garcia. The center is also offering a 50 percent discount on all services from June 15 to 28.

E-mail: marie@blairsacademycenter.com

LEARNING

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Reading *shaped* Rizal's POLITICAL *consciousness*

By Bryan Anthony C. Farolan
Contributor

@Libro's Inna: The author is the director-curator of the National Historical Commission of the Philippines.)

MANY Filipinos honor, like modern Bonifacio and Apolinario Mabini, assiduously collected and read books and pamphlets. But how did Rizal stands out as the foremost bibliophile, his interests ranging from the literary to the scientific.

Even as a three-year old, according to his older sister Narcisa, Rizal was determined to learn his alphabet from the cartilla, memorizing the letters and their pronunciation within a day. He was deeply indebted to his mother, Teodora Alonso, who taught him simple prayers, folk songs and nursery rhymes.

As recalled in the Ateneo Municipal, he wrote, "By this time I began to devote myself to my leisure hours to the reading of novels, though once before I had already read 'El Conde Montecristo,' but I didn't read it with ardor. Imagine a boy of twelve years reading the 'Count of Monte Cristo,' enjoying the recounted dialogues and delighting in its beauties and following step by step its turns in his revenge."

Final score: to Dr. Ferdinand Blumentritt on Nov. 8, 1888, "In my town of only 5,000 to 6,000 inhabitants, there are some six small private libraries. Ours is the largest, consisting of more than one thousand volumes; the smallest may have twenty or thirty. The Indian general is very fond of reading and studying..."

During trips to Europe, Rizal frequented the bookshops of Antonio Roda, Pedro Vindel, Fernando Fe, and Gervasio Madrid, tracking down rare Spanish books that detailed pre-Hispanic Filipino culture and other ethnographic materials.

> 'I have glimpsed a little light and I believe that it is my duty to teach it to my countrymen'

Prized possessions

Noted historian Dr. Ambeth Ocampo indicated that, through these forays, the hero collected around 2,000 volumes. Rizal established his collection important, and was angered by those who would steal his books. "Tell me if the book that was taken by a soldier had been returned already, and if not, when? Look at it. This pencil is clay while I economize money to buy books, anyone takes them away. You give me the temptation of losing everything to Germany with the certainty that there will be no investment of the Civil Guard who understands them, but I will not do this for you, because you would not get any benefit... The books I have here are as many or more than what are there; see to it then that none will get lost, thinks that those gentlemen just go up a library with revolutionary donations."

Unfortunately, Rizal's valuable library fell to the size of his friend Jose Maria Basa in Hong Kong and not back in the Philippines before World War II, was presumed to have been destroyed during the conflict.

In 1960, Dr. Ocampo compiled a list of books and pamphlets collected by Rizal throughout his life. It appeared, from the list, that Rizal's artistic and political preoccupations were shaped by the ideas and principles of Western thinkers.

Among the political theorists Rizal read was the British philosopher Herbert Spencer, whose utopian views on colonial reforms aroused no fears but expounded in the hero's personal mind "El Filibusterismo."

In "Mas reason in Spencer", Spencer said, "In our days of active philanthropy, hosts of people eager to achieve benefits for their less fortunate fellows by the clearest methods, busily occupied in developing administrative arrangements of a kind proper to a lower type of society—one bringing about retrogression while aiming at progression. The normal difficulties in the way of advance are sufficiently great, and it is unreasonable that they should be made greater. Hence, in matters in which social ordering may be done, if philanthropists can be shown that they are in many cases assisting the future lifting of men while eagerly pursuing their present wellbeing."

Loving hope

Early on, Rizal was a firm advocate of assimilation with Spain through reforms. He gradually changed his views, as reflected in his letter to Blumentritt in July 1888: "I believe that it is already here the majority of Filipinos have lost already the hope they have pinned on Spain's Cortes and await can fate from God and from ourselves, but never anymore from any Government."

Consequently, in the 1st, published in 1891, Simon's tribunal of Basilio's unlived reform Spencer's retrofitted remarks against colonial reforms: "For positive effects thinking to make your country with easy gadgets, and to readily purchase ones' freedom. For such gain of rights, the Spanish way of life, and you do not realize that what you are asking is death, the destruction of your national ideal (1), the disappearance of your fundamental principle of existence... What is to become of you? A people without a soul, a nation without freedom, everything in you will be borrowed, even your very debris. You are the dispossessors and do not deserve it."

Bridging the religious divide

By Gary Garcia
Contributor

IMAGINE high school students discussing Buddhism, Christianity or Islam. It is a very typical religious class where they are just writing notes while a religious teacher lectures. Thanks to videoconferencing, they are chatting not just with their classmates, but with students in countries as far away as the United Kingdom, Egypt and India.

Welcome to Face to Faith, an innovative curriculum initiated by the Tony Blair Faith Foundation that seeks to promote religious literacy and understanding among the world's youth. Tony Blair is the former UK prime minister.

The program was already active in 15 countries after 9/11 but not in the Philippines. Why not? That was the question in the mind of Fr. Johnny Go, SJ, president of Xavier School, after he stumbled over the Tony Blair Faith Foundation website last year.

Always on the lookout for innovative programs, Go e-mailed the foundation to ask if it had plans of launching the program in the Philippines. Program manager Leila Walker promptly said yes, and would factor organize an introductory meeting with school heads in the country.

In September 2008, key members and Steven Rhee of the foundation came to Manila and met with a group of 30 educators.

"We're usually happy when we get 20 in these meetings," Jasmine quipped.

Those in attendance included administrators of 18 public and private schools from all over the Philippines, and representatives of the Departments of Education and Foreign Affairs. Schools included Ateneo de Manila, Brent, Assumption College, and La Salle Green Hills, as well as some international schools. There were also administrators from the Visayas and Mindanao.

The participants' enthusiastic response convinced Jasmine and Rhee that the country was ready for a teacher training workshop to launch the program.

Xavier was designated lead school in the Philippines, and Go was invited to the coordinators' conference in Dubai, where he met his counterparts from countries like the UK, United States, India, Pakistan, Egypt, Syria, and the Palestinian Territories.

Go and other coordinators had the chance to meet Blair himself and present their country plans.

"The guy can think in today's world is not between the haves and have-nots," Blair explained the rationale of the program. "Rather, the great divide is between those who are open-minded and those who are closed-minded." The founder of Face to Faith said understanding among the different religions was key to world peace.

Introduction to Faith

Two months later, over 40 teachers and school administrators had their first Face to Faith Teacher Training Workshop at Xavier.

Participants came from eight diverse schools, including Catholic private schools De La Salle-Santiago Zobel and Xavier, public school Ramon Magsaysay High School, international school Philippine Bandhu International School, and vocational school Cebu Technical High School. The Silsilaan schools that were represented have a substantial number of Muslim students: Ateneo de Davao, Ateneo de Zamboanga and Ateneo de Jolo Extension High School.

The program posed the following question: "In what way is religion finds important in the world today? How can it be a force for the good in one's own life and in the world?" Why dialogue—and how?"

Participants watched clips of several student video conferences. Conducted by Face program consultants from India, the live-chat workshop began with a Skype session with Ethel Cachero of Australia, who discussed the experience with Catholic schools. In her own sharing, Ethel talked about a "foundational thought" video conference between Indian students and Palestinian students who started the session with stereotypes about one another and some hostility, only to realize that they had many more things in common than they had realized to think.

Another Skype conference featured Linda Lenzo in Indianapolis who explained the technical aspects of video conferencing in user-friendly language.

Participants engaged in cooperative learning activities and experienced firsthand the student-centered approach of the Face to Faith curriculum. They were also introduced to the curriculum's framework, where teachers and students bring about their experiences and their insights.

The workshop allowed teachers to see how the program hoped to help students speak meaningfully, respectfully and appreciatively about different religious traditions, including their own.

Now in 17 countries, Face to Faith continues to promote inter-religious dialogue and understanding among the young today.

E-mail: pdlippines@facetofaithonline.org.

FAITH IN: Jasmine with Filipino school administrators at the Face to Faith international meeting

Photo (L-R): Lauren Dillon/ Jasmin Velasquez, LPU VP&A Dr. Consolo Iraja, LPU President Roberto Laurel, CLC Director for Studies Dr. Shahzad Fouad and CLC Principal David Hines

LPU Signs MOA with City of London College

Liaison of the Philippines University (LPU) recently signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with City of London College (CLC) to bolster UK-based courses and qualifications here in the Philippines. Present at the signing were LPU President Atty. Rolando Laurel, LPU Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Consolo Iraja Jr., CLC Director of Studies Dr. Shahzad Fouad and CLC Principal Mr. David Hines. Witnesses to the signing were LPU Center for Language Education and Proficiency Director Alfredo Diamante and CLC's Juanito Peñaranda.

CLC is one of London's longest-established and most respected private providers of education and training focused on the needs of international students. Over the years, more than 50,000 students, including a large number of Filipinos, have graduated from the College, and are now pursuing successful and worthwhile careers all over the world.

With the signing of the MOA, LPU students will benefit from globally-diverse and enhanced international recognition of their qualifications. This should also result in more foreign students choosing the Philippines as their destination for international study. Present goal is for the first group of students to join the UK-based courses in LPU in September-October 2011.

Playgrounds for the MIND

Member Schools

La Salle celebrates 100 years

DE LA Salle University turns 100 on June 16 and various activities have been lined up to mark this milestone.

A relic of St. John Baptist de La Salle, founder of the Christian Brothers Institute and Patron Saint of Students, will be brought to Manila for public viewing and veneration on June 15. The 200 year-old relic, a gift from the Christian Brothers' Institute in Rome on the occasion of the Lasallian centennial in the Philippines, will be permanently enshrined in DLSU's Henry Sy Sr. Hall Sacrament Chapel after it makes a tour of the Philippine district schools this year.

A film tribute to the centennial, "Ingkanto ng Anghel" premiered in SM Mall of Asia Cinema on June 12. Produced by DLSU and Star Studio and written and directed by DL SE Professor Emeritus Rolando del Mundo Jr., the movie features a cast dominated by Lasallians and is subtitled by 2010 International Emmy best actor nominee Bid Lorayes. Proceeds from ticket sales will go to the One La Salle Scholarship Fund.

On June 16, 17 La Salle schools in the country will simultaneously hold fundraising activities to raise a total of 100,000 students and alumni are expected to flock to the DLSU campus to conclude the centennial countdown and usher in a yearlong celebration.

The DLSU Manila community will be opening the public to its facilities, events and activities by inviting non-Lasallians in government, media, and society will be forming the "Green Mile" – a mile-long human chain along Taft Avenue to show the unity of Lasallian community members.

There will be exhibits on La Salle's green advocacy, the launch of the Lasallian Green Car, namely Silver II, the country's third solar car, and DLSU 100, an energy efficient, battery-powered car.

In the evening, popular artists from DL SE will stage "Song Quest, Songwritten" a concert directed by Nonrell Santiago, with Lesley Aspillera as musical director.

Guest artists will include Lasallians: The Akadellas, Bamboo Mendoza, Dingdong Avanzado, Jinggoy Dee, Dingdong Echapuz, Mike Enriquez, Erik Manuzon, Kimiko Nadal, Carlo Orosa, Jeri Pangan, Cynthia Reyes, Princess Ilyn Quizon, Tia Quizon, Jose Javier Reyes, Jill Rodriguez, Randy Santiago, The Tan, Kamikel Valenciano, and Wacy Wilson.

Lasallian students and students at large will also perform, led by the DLSU Chorale, De La Salle Innersoul, La Salle Dance Company Akrem and LSCH Archeon.

Tickets are sold at the DLSU Centennial Office at Room 102, St. La Salle Hall, De La Salle University. The show will benefit the centennial project of the La Salle centennial celebrations, the One La Salle Scholarship Fund, a campaign to raise two million pesos to support approximately 10,000 with full scholarships in La Salle schools nationwide.

The concert is part of a week-long celebration which began June 11. Highlights of the week include the staging of Friendly Green, a musical sponsored by La Salle Alumni Association (LSAA) on June 11, the veneration and public viewing of a relic of St. John Baptist de La Salle on the DLSU campus on June 13; the culmination of the Lasallian One Million Trees and Beyond Project on June 16; and staging of Centum: Five in the Soul, a musical tribute to the Lasallian Brothers during NYRU on June 19.

SDCA stages 2nd Kulayawan Festival

THE CENTER for Student Leadership of St. Dominic College of Asia recently spearheaded the 2nd Kulayawan Festival which means "mutually repayment". It is the culminating activity of students enrolled in Bayanihan Activities (PWCD) subject. This year all the presentations of each group adopted the Pagyaway Flag Festival of Imus, Cavite in line with the theme of Philippine Flag Festival held at SDCA. But of 8 competing groups SHM 1 and C bagged the title and best in costume followed by BSN 1A (Dark and Bright) and BSBA (Fashion Arena).

Escolarian leaders and achievers recognized

OVER 500 Centro Escolar University students were recognized in the coveted University Recognition Day 2011 held recently at the Lourdes Auditorium in the CEU Manila Campus. Dubbed as "Celebration of Leadership, Achievements, and Service," the awardees were composed of officers and achievers of the nine schools and colleges of CEU, university athletes, university performers, and the University Student Council. Recognition were also given to the Outstanding Organizations, Model Presidents, Outstanding Student, Model Council Advisers, and Most Disciplined School/College of CEU. Organized by the Student Affairs Office, the University Recognition Day aims to recognize the outstanding efforts of the students in excelling in co-curricular activities and of striving total development, and to set the awardees as examplars of leadership, service, and achievement.

Angelicum organizes leadership training

TWENTY FOUR members of Angelicum College Student Council recently went given extensive Leadership Training entitled "Born to be Great" by their alumni predecessors. The SC members from freshmen to senior level received Academic Awards and Medals for their outstanding efforts and innovation among its members. According to Rendevuder Bonoan, head, Guidance Department, the said leadership training is apt for preparing the student leaders for the running as freshyear officers. Bonoan further added that the training focused more on the inner self and it rest with in. In develop leadership skills. "The Leadership Training is part of the services of the Office of the Guidance Department. Everyone knows that class and club officers is being organized with the help of the office the team principal," Amores claimed. The facilitators led by officers of the Angelicum College Alumni Association for their part that the training do not benefit the students only but the facilitators themselves. "It was a reunion because it brought people closer to each other making it more easy for them to work for another school year (as a team)," Amores said.

SISC holds IB Diploma Programme graduation

THE 16TH Commencement Exercises of the International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Programme of Southville International School and Colleges (SISC) was held June 4 with Dr. Nilda Clemente, president of Southville Foreign University (SFU), as the keynote speaker. Dr. Genevieve Lastimosa Yao, SISC chief executive mentor; Dr. Mari Herosa, SISC president and Marie Ann Miranda, IB coordinator, graced the event. Leading the 98 graduates of Batch IB 2011 were the top seven IB candidates who received awards. Thian Rae Sy-Quia (valedictorian) Shing Hao Lee (silver medal), Alark Cardillacs, Subject Excellence Awards, Outstanding Extended Essays, each locally awards were also given to exceptional students.

UE CCSS to offer Multimedia Arts course

THE UE College of Computer Studies and Systems (CCSS), a Commission on Higher Education-recognized Center of Development in Education, will be offering the Bachelor of Science in Multimedia Arts course next year. The course is in line with industry expectations and demand for multimedia aesthetic and digital animation. In line with this and in support of the college's evolving multimedia systems, the CCSS has acquired and installed 40 brand new Macs, the top-of-the-line desktop computers by the renowned computer company Apple. These iMacs, which run on Apple's own Mac OS X operating system, are also powered by state-of-the-art Intel processors. All units are with the powerful Autodesk Maya software. Maya, also known as Alias, is used in producing three-dimensional computer graphics which dominate animated or live-action movies, video games, TV programs and others. UE's brand new iMac lab is housed in CCSS' IMAX Laboratory. The CCSS faculty members recently attended an orientation on the general use and operation of Maya. A training program on the use of Maya is slated for this June. The new course and the Mac acquisitions are just scheduled effective by SY 2011-2012. Through the CCSS, in partnership with the UE IT education foundation's high-quality, IT-savvy, industry-ready graduates. For further details, contact the CCSS at 735-9471 local 360 and 363 or 735-9975, or e-mail ccss@ue.edu.ph.

Rizo confab slated at LPU Batangas

LPU BATANGAS is all set for the 2011 Conference and General Assembly of the International Federation of Social Science Organizations (ISSOnline) named "Social Economic Changes and Human Security". To be held at LPU's Freedom Hall on the 16 to 20. Aimed at providing a venue for dialogue on human security among social scientists coming from different countries, academic institutions, and research organizations, those peoples this 20th General Conference is a discussion on human security using perspectives coming from various Social Science disciplines. The conference discussions will be anopportunity for the exchange of Filipino perspectives on human security issues. To date, three Secretariat has already accepted several paper proposals coming from the Africa then, Japan, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, and Tanzania. LPU Batangas is one of the associate members of these.

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TAKING THE LEAD

4th UP Law Centennial Lecture

University of Batangas opens Lipa campus

UST hosts Edu Quad Conference 2011

Senator Revilla keynotes AMA graduation

Rx for procrastination

AS A TEACHER for more than 20 years now, I believe that the most common problem of students is not bullying, cheating or drug abuse. The problem we are dealing with procrastination may be the most prevalent. Derived from the Latin roots pro (forward) and crastinus (tomorrow), procrastination has been in the Oxford English Dictionary since the mid-1500s.

Procrastination is so widespread in schools that the novelist Elizabeth Goldstein dubbed it "student syndrome" in his book "Cracked Chain," (students) who suffer from the syndrome usually delay a task until right before deadline. They work on a paper just before it is due and, for lack of time, often resort to cutting and pasting passages from other sources, without proper attribution. They call classes to print out their papers and, ridiculously, bring pens, rarely, blame the printer, the ink cartridge, even the dog.

Cramming

Cramming is classic procrastination. A student may still call data-failed a major test. She could, "But I studied. I really did!" Yes, she did but that is how Ann said her 8-grade-accident hour chapters of more than a hundred pages. They listened to the lecture but did not take notes.

Thinking they understood the lecture, they did not open the textbook. A month, or 7 p.m. before the exam, they held a group study in Ann's house.

"We did not sleep at all," Ann noted. "We studied for 12 hours straight, up to 7 a.m. the next morning." They were shocked that they failed. I was shocked that they expected to see the test given than pass their habits.

During the test, Ann said she remembered reading the terms the night before, but forgot the basic lessons about. Human short-term memory can easily retain seven items, more or less. Tests cover more than seven things.

Ann and her friends tried to force hundreds of ideas into their minds in a short time. They could not succeed. Nobody could.

For long term, cramming does not work. It does humans become selves with infinite memory and upside processing, consuming seven well.

What did Ann do to redeem herself? She did not study once, she read her textbook every single day, a few pages at a time. She took notes and asked questions in class. A couple of days before the next exam, she reviewed the main ideas.

She did not have a group study session this time, because "we wasted time chatting about other things." Instead of being panicky and stressed out, she was calm during the test. Not surprisingly, she got a well-deserved A.

Causes

What makes students procrastinate? Could they from anxiety, low self-esteem and depression to poor discipline and, well, debilitating personality and even a defective prefrontal cortex.

But the most likely reason is most students overestimate their ability to multi-task/focus, and underestimate the time needed for reflection and understanding.

Ideally, students should be able to pace themselves and not cram. But when I tell my students not to procrastinate, they only smile politely. Thus, I have decided to save my students from themselves, as much as possible.

I usually give them a timeline, asking them to submit smaller tasks as regular intervals, instead of one big chunk at the end of a semester. I ask them to submit an outline by the end of June, a review of literature by July, a first draft by August, a second draft by September, and the final copy by October. I make suggestions and revisions, and expect each successive submission to be better than the last.

Some students are perfectionists. They will not continue to look within they find their own anything in group for fear to impossibility to be academic and, I daresay, in the real world.

I once had a student who could not write beyond the first paragraph. He agonized over every single word and punctuation mark, as much so he could not write anything at all. Because "nothing was good enough," I counseled him to relax, "just do it!" and to revise his work later.

Help

As I now school year begins, the best resolution students can make is to treat procrastination, once and for all.

Here are some tips:

Make a deal with yourself in work on a task for 15-20 minutes. Once you get started, momentum kicks in and you will usually continue the work.

Eliminate distractions. Studies by Tim Pychyl, director of the Procrastination Research Group at Carleton University in Canada, show that the worst procrastinators are those distracted by e-mail, social networking, computer games. Shut them all off, he says. You can check them after you have finished your work.

Break down huge tasks into smaller pieces. You did well on the test by cutting the book slowly in chunks, studying every day, instead of trying to finish everything in one night.

Prioritize. Most students concentrate on subjects they like, and put off doing the homework they hate. This is the exact opposite of what advisors do. Good students focus their energies and time on difficult assignments first and, afterwards, devote their remaining resources to easier tasks. Since the latter is naturally pleasurable, students will not delay doing them.

Seek advice from teachers on difficult tasks. A student can tell (all) from the first and submit any requirements. He asked me how to do "extra work" to raise her final grade. He said he "did not know how to do the homework."

Understandably, he never consulted at all during the semester, so I had to tell him that, if he could not do regular assignments, there was no way he could understand the extra work, as it would be a lot more complex.

Confucius Walter's behavior with his classmate Pepe's Al. Though Pepe also found the requirements challenging, he consulted me several times. He submitted an excellent project.

To students, teachers, parents and other readers, e-mail me how you overcome procrastination, or helped others do so. I will feature the most helpful suggestions in a future column.

Have a great school year!

E-mail the author at blanfrank@yahoo.com.

Seminar series on latest in wedding industry

THE PHILIPPINES Wedding Summit of Pinoy's free skills enhancement seminar series for wedding entrepreneurs to update and upgrade what they know about the wedding industry's latest trends and innovations.

The seminar, to be held June 18 (Sat) the Philippine International Convention Center Forum, Cultural Center of the Philippines Complex, is also open to those who want to be professional wedding planners.

Dodie Fabian, Themes & Motifs senior partner, said the series organizers hope those experience would help new wedding entrepreneurs avoid the mistakes they made.

Resource persons for the seminar series include wedding planner Rita Mari, who will talk on "Destination Weddings;" event stylist Henry Lapid, who will conduct a hands-on training for the bets and artists going into event styling; e-services consultant STYLIT, which will share its expertise on customer service using the latest technology.

Call 2785764 or 4127802 to reserve a seat at the free session. For more details, visit www.theweddingsummit.com.

PARTNERS (from left) Jose Rizalino and Teresa Sarabia (standing) Angeli Tacorda, Jonathan Co, Trenton Andrew Lowrey Salvador Santiago Jr. and Ipha Frederick Santos

Iloilo school streamlines enrollment system

ST. THERESE—MTC colleges in Tarlac has upgraded its enrollment system in response to the growing needs and requirements of students, faculty members and school staff.

It is the latest school to adopt Pinnacle Technologies Inc.'s student information Management System (SIMS), which is designed to manage all aspects of the enrollment process, including student applications, applicant approval, subject and section offerings, student enrollment, faculty grading, student graduation and exit procedures.

Dr. Teresa Garabia, CTMTCSLP president, said the school hoped to provide excellent education, training and services to students, where this she said the school needs a world-class enrollment system, upgraded processes and mechanisms.

Pinnacle president Jose Tadeo said the technology solutions the school is about 30,000 student with current IT tools, with as per-service per-user license fees or expensive maintenance charges.

The system's software-based operation automates the manual and allows the school to focus on institutional management rather than IT management.

The alumni Leo Jolard, dean of Graduate School Business, Polytechnic University of the Philippines; Emily Underwood of Asia, Jose Rizal University; Sarah Isidro Ignacio Manila, University of Region, Pamantin Central Colleges; Linda on Colleges and West Visayas State University-Iloilo City (WVSU-IAMC).

Call 2778000 or 3318883 or e-mail info@pinnacle.com.ph. Visit www.pinnacle.com.ph.

Reading shaped Rizal's political consciousness

From page B1

black for shame when it is denied to you."

The politicians with Spencer's views wanted to signify Rizal's acceptance of the idea of tolerance in keeping governance for the Philippines, free from Spain's "civilizing" involvement.

Though innocent, Rizal was not a victim in the plot of secession. Due to effect statements change. In June 1897, he said: "I can assure you that I have no reason to take part in a struggle in arms which appears to me premature and wide. But if the government does not save them, then to my side what accuses me to do but to seek our destruction in war, which Filipinos would prefer to die rather than cede to lungs their country, their field all also become a pasture of foolish cattle."

Getting ready

Rizal prepared for every possible event in the Philippines by reading and educating himself... from books on military history and strategy to politics, industry and agriculture.

In April 1890, he wrote to Blumentritt: H. del Pilar: "I am assiduously studying the beginnings in our country. I believe that in taking care to know its origin we can better understand the present situation (especially as already mentioned).

I still have faith in this belief of mine."

Rizal's passion for books contributed to the formation of his patriotic consciousness and, in due course, his literary voice as a political novelist.

Today, too many governments in office have prepared to find true leadership roles by educating themselves through books? With all the scandals festering in the country, perhaps they could learn this as Rizal's studiousness and selflessness as "...I do not aspire within the present historical moment except to those who see conditions, troubles, and circumstances could be and are in effect different from mine. My sole wish is to do what is possible, what is in my hands, the most necessary I have glimpsed a little light and I believe there it is my duty to testify it to my countrymen."

Dr. Jesus Peralta is dean of Rizaliana CM and SOCE at www.ateneo.edu.ph.

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Programmable Logic Controller (Leading to Mechatronics NC II) — 7,500 — 120

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Remembering old UP

By Teodulo M. Tupaz Jr.
National Tutorial

THE FIRST permanent building of the College of Veterinary Medicine was dedicated in 1916 (above). When the college moved to Diliman in 1948, it was housed in the old Army motor pool (right).

DEN SOROLENG was interrupted by World War II. Many colleges and universities, including the University of the Philippines, were closed during the Japanese occupation in 1941-1945.

Though UP reopened in 1945, I could not return to the College of Veterinary Medicine (CVM) until June 1946. Willfully a few students enrolling registration was a breeze. The CVM then was in Pandacan while the main UP campus was in Ermita, both in Manila.

As you may wonder, I had to commute between Pandacan for the veterinary courses and Ermita for liberal arts subjects, like English, mathematics, chemistry, etc.

From Pandacan, one had the double bayon Ermita. If we enjoyed it, we had to walk for almost an hour, making us late for our classes. If the professor was not so strict, we were excused. However, some were not—not surprising in UP.

Every time I ride on Pandacan, we were excluded from activities on the main campus. We used to address were considered "country yokels." So we set up our own student body and organized activities. But we had to ask activities students from Ermita to be our college members' counterparts.

The main event at CVM was the Veterinary Formal Ball Night, held before the end of the academic year at an exclusive club. It was strictly your and its for male faculty members and students and evening dresses for women. The activity gave us respite from our difficult academic courses and equally tough professors.

To Diliman

In 1949, UP transferred to main campus in Diliman, Quezon City. The transfer, initiated by Commonwealth President Manuel Luis Quezon, was opposed by many prominent alumni among the alumnae and "Isabelas" of Quezon City.

But then UP president Bienvenido Gonzalez, former dean of the UP Los Baños College of Agriculture, pushed through with the transfer.

For we were real students, if we a wise decision as it enabled us to get better clinical experience in the Quezon City area. It also integrated the college with the main campus, erasing our identity as "country yokels."

Students and faculty members, who joined the fanatic motorcade, sang "Dyan Ay Ciit" It was a stirring and emotional moment for all of us who participated. Those who joined the march were unit-pinning certificate as a "Pioneer" signed by Gonzalez.

In Diliman, each college got its own building. Since we were dealing with animals, CVM was planned for the far end of the campus and got two homes. Army motor pool buildings (aptly made of GI [galvanized iron] sheets.

The buildings were hot during summer and noisy when we raised that we could not hear the lectures or recitations. If the rains did not stop, classes were dismissed, because jay Ulloa we left QC in 1954, during the term of president Ntal. Tan and through the United States Agency for International Development, economic building was constructed and inaugurated. It is now the College of Vmn Sci.)

Our college had another isolation ion again from the rest of the campus, except during elections for the student council and certain campus activities like the traditional Pink and White Ball (for junior-senior students) and, for our-yet-rued female classmates, the Ilocandia Ball (Ilocano fiesta). The latter was memorable for me because my wife, Lourice Rivera, BS Pharmacy

TEODULO M. Tupaz Jr.

1951 and also a Diamond Jubilarian, was a pat helpmet.

When we graduated in 1951, the UP Student Council voted to have Sen. Claro M. Recto, a brilliant lawyer and opposition to then President Elpidio Quirino, as commencement speaker. We admired the courage of Recto and orgized this speech, which was criticized the administration.

Ben Quirino, an alumnus of the UP College of Law, did not like it, prompting Gonzalez to resign as UP president.

Successful

All the members of our batch (class 1951) succeeded in their chosen fields. The Americans became successful pixel farmers in the United States while the lone female member of the class became a senior researcher in the US Department of Health. One alumnus became a senior researcher in the US Department of Agriculture. Two of the men became corporate executives in the Philippines and one, the chair of the Veterinary Inspection Board of Manila.

The author became a faculty member and then dean of the UP CVM. He was appointed professorial emeritus of UPLB and proclaimed National Scientist by the president of the Philippines.

UMAlumnus/Jubilarians and all UP alumni are invited to attend UP's General Alumni Homecoming on June 23.

WORLD WAR II TRUE STORIES

Wrongly accused

By Vincent Jude Muñoz
Holy Name Universityy
High School Department,
Tagbilaran City

Editor's Note: The following is excerpted from the narrative that won second prize in the 2011 WWII True Stories contest. Visited got an Apple iPad. The Philippine entered a young account in the many writ ant- mined depth of PLUOW. His readers: mouth, Cancer-IS. nghipun Jr. received P5,000 from PVB.)

MY GREAT grandmother, Josefa Company Nazareno, of Nasay Iloilo, was 13 years old when the Japanese arrived in Bohol.

Josefa was one of five daughters of Don Joaquin Company and Nicasia Nunez, who said her sister Joaquinita, Benita and Victoria never all named after their father's siblings who lived in Spain.

Pio R. Fernando, in his book "The Bohol Guerillas in Action," said the bulk of the Japanese troops landed in Tagbilaran, the capital, on May 17, 1942, establishing their main garrison in the city and in the town of Guindulman.

The Company family had owned a big tract of land in barrio Mahayag in the town of Trinidad. One of the days in 1942, Nasay Sepa was hurling a flock of sheep when a truckload of Japanese soldiers came. She encountered three of them, who ran after her. Afraid of what they might do to her, she hurled some rocks at the soldiers.

Then Nasay Sepa froze in horror when she realized that the truck she was neither was pushed over three houses. And the soldiers beat up Don Joaquin in front of his wife and daughter. She watched helplessly as her father tried to explain himself.

The Japanese eventually stopped and "executed" Don Joaquin explained he was a Spaniard, not an American. Nicasia presented documents proving his Spanish ancestry.

The leader of the team apologized to Don Joaquin and even treated him to a whole. Don Joaquin befriended the Japanese and trusted them well. He installed barracks near where they camped in his estate. Undercover in the Japanese. Don Joaquin was also supplying food to a group of guerillas in the nearby mountains.

Don Joaquin was made barangay captain of Mahayag to help maintain order in the barrio and promote understanding between the community and the Japanese. By this time, Nasay Sepa was the only one left living with her parents. Her sisters and seven farm workers fled when they heard of the arrival of the Japanese. Nasay Sepa did not join them because she wanted to be with her parents.

Benita, as her father called her, was not afraid of the enemy. In fact, she did not even think of them as the enemy. For the 11-year-old girl, her enemies were those who threatened her family.

Every other day she went to the Japanese's camp to deliver food. She brought eggs, chickens and vegetables, the usual ration Don Joaquin asked her to bring. Once, the Japanese gave her their bonus and Don Joaquin the largest pig in the pen.

Don Joaquin also continued to assist the Filipino guerillas secretly, even sending them a cow in his backpack. But not all guerillas knew about this. Some of them believed Don Joaquin was collaborating with the Japanese for his own benefit.

Nasay Sepa could not remember any encounter between the Japanese and the guerillas in Mahayag. But she did witness Japanese brutality. They hanged and shot in public at the center of the barrio a suspected guerilla and buried him at the exact spot where he was executed.

When the men was almost over, another Japanese went looting and the townspeople were returning to their homes, including Nasay Sepa's parents. Don Joaquin was suddenly arrested by the guerillas and accused of being a Japanese spy. He was brought to the town of Talibon and imprisoned as an alleged traitor.

SECOND PRIZE: Muñoz, with Nasay Sepa, Aglaonni and PVB CEO Ricardo Bulaón Jr

Nasay Sepa and the rest of the family reacted to prayers for comfort. The Japanese were gone but another kind of war was beginning to break their family apart.

A month after Don Joaquin was imprisoned, a messenger told Nicasia that her husband was going to be tried in public. Nicasia went to Talibon the next day with all four daughters and her younger sister Macaria in tow.

It was a very long walk from Mahayag to Talibon but Nasay Sepa was jumping for joy that she would see her beloved father again. When they were finally reunited with Don Joaquin, they saw his condition was bad. He was kept in a very small, dirty cell in the town hall of Talibon, situated by chance with a swimming hole. Before, Nasay Sepa's father was executed hastily in prison. He found was placed in a spot of [unreadable] shell). Almost every day, he was beaten to force him to confess to the crimes with which he was being charged.

Still, the family reunion brought peace to Nasay Sepa's heart. She could sense that her mother's tears were tinged with joy. The happy reunion would not last long, however.

During the trial, which drew a big crowd, the members of Don Joaquin's family were given the chance to speak and defend him. But their pleas fell on deaf ears. Don Joaquin was sentenced to death, to be shot two days after the trial.

The family could only resort to prayer once again. They could not sleep. Nicasia refused to eat and could not stop crying. Her sister could no longer find the words to comfort her.

The family had almost given up and accepted Don Joaquin's fate when, as if in answer to their prayers, high-ranking guerilla officers in Cebu heard the news of Don Joaquin's upcoming execution.

An officer named Mariano Subalonos came to Talibon to stop the executions. A very historic Subalonos arrived and yelled at the soldiers in the municipio, even slapping and kicking some. He ordered the immediate release of Don Joaquin.

Subalonos told the soldiers and the people in the municipio, who thanked that Don Joaquin aided the Japanese. (But those present also helped the guerillas. Subalonos explained that appearing to help the enemy was the only way for Don Joaquin to protect his family and the people in the barrio.

Subalonos apologized to Don Joaquin, affixing him to remain in Talibon for a while until it was safe to return to Mahayag.

Nasay Sepa could not believe how swiftly things changed. They had lost their father for a few months. The family was again intact and Don Joaquin slowly regained his strength. His wife devoted her time to caring for him.

The ordeal that her family went through during the war remains fresh in Nasay Sepa's memory. The experience made her a firm believer that prayers can lead to miracles.

Book finder

"Blueberry Girl"
Written by Neil Gaiman
Illustrated by Charles Vess
Age group: 4-8

THIS IS a picture book that is not as much for little girls as for their parents.

It is not, repeat, not a fairy tale. Rather, it is an unconventional prayer for a baby girl, with wishes for her to have many days and nights and the wisdom to choose her path right. It is a prayer for her to sleep and dance in the rain ... never grow into a maid in the hair. "

The text may throw off easy playnights, but each pages is lavishly illustrated. There you gets gate's own wonderful lines and hues, rich and colors, or beautiful strokes and outlines.

Available at National Book Store, Bestsellers and Powerbooks

Watch and learn

THE LINEUP for the June 2012 History Channel is an anthology of eye-opening episodes that make for visually stunning and thought-provoking viewing experiences.

Ancient Aliens," which airs every Wednesday at 8 p.m., explores one of the world's greatest mysteries: Aliens. Examining 15 million years' worth of the most credible evidence of aliens here on Earth, the series takes a long and hard look at various historical sightings and investigations whether or not there is truth to any of them.

"Secret Access: The Vatican," which premieres on June 10 at 8 p.m., is an incredible journey that unveils the inner workings of the Vatican— from the secret archives to the Swiss Guards, as well as some of the treasures locked inside.

The program is a breathtaking virtual tour around the 110 acres city where an ongoing excavation of an ancient cemetery that the Vatican was built upon uncovers priceless artifacts, including the bones of St. Peter himself.

Discovery Channel celebrates with the fifth season of "The Universe," which premieres on June 20 at 11 p.m. and airs every Wednesday at the same time thereafter. Both enthralling and educational, the series exposes some of the universe's wonders, past and present.

Get to know the universe from a fresh, new perspective as each episode examines how various groundbreaking discoveries were made, and reveals the fascinating stories of the scientists and explorers who were bold enough to go to these unchartered territories.

All are available on *SkyCable channel 66, Cignal channel 47, Destiny Cable channel 27 and Sky Cable channel 56.*

The Vatican, the center of Roman Catholicism